Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you think a mass protest would help expedite solutions to the current power crisis on the island?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

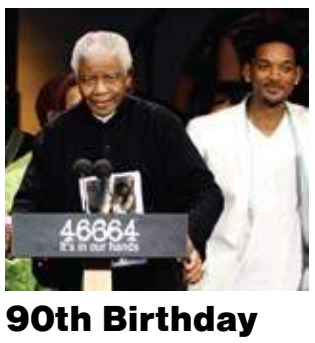
INSIDE

Decorating
Don't be jealous, but I happen to live in a fabulous–but Spartan–place.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 10

Truce
Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton seek to turn the page on their bitter fight.

NATION...Page 17



90th Birthday
Nelson Mandela proved the biggest star at a concert in honor of his 90th birthday.

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Another wage study on NMI

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"The studies will provide more data on the economic condition of the CNMI than has ever been collected before."
—Pete A. Tenorio, CNMI Resident Representative to Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Congress is getting closer to passing a law calling for more wage studies on the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.

The provision is included in the Iraq war supplemental funding bill, which is now headed to a conference committee of senators and representatives. Once the committee works out the differences in the versions of the bill approved by each chamber, the bill will go to President George W. Bush for his signature.

See CONGRESS on Page 4

New report calls for insurance legislation

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

A newly issued report by the CNMI Department of Commerce is calling for legislation that local insurers say would safeguard foreign workers against abuse by companies that cannot pay claims on the insurance they sell.

The Commerce report has yet to be released to the public, but a copy obtained by *The Saipan Tribune* reveals that the depart-

See COMMERCE on Page 4

AP

U.S. Army soldiers from Fires Squadron, Second Stryker Cavalry Regiment search a home inside a village near Muqdadiyah, about 90 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad in Iraq's volatile Diyala province on Friday, June 27, 2008.

30K troops Iraq-bound in '09

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ON THE NET
Defense Department: http://www.defenselink.mil

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon is preparing to order roughly 30,000 troops to Iraq early next year in a move that would allow the U.S. to maintain 15 combat brigades in the country through 2009, The Associated Press has learned.

The deployments would re-

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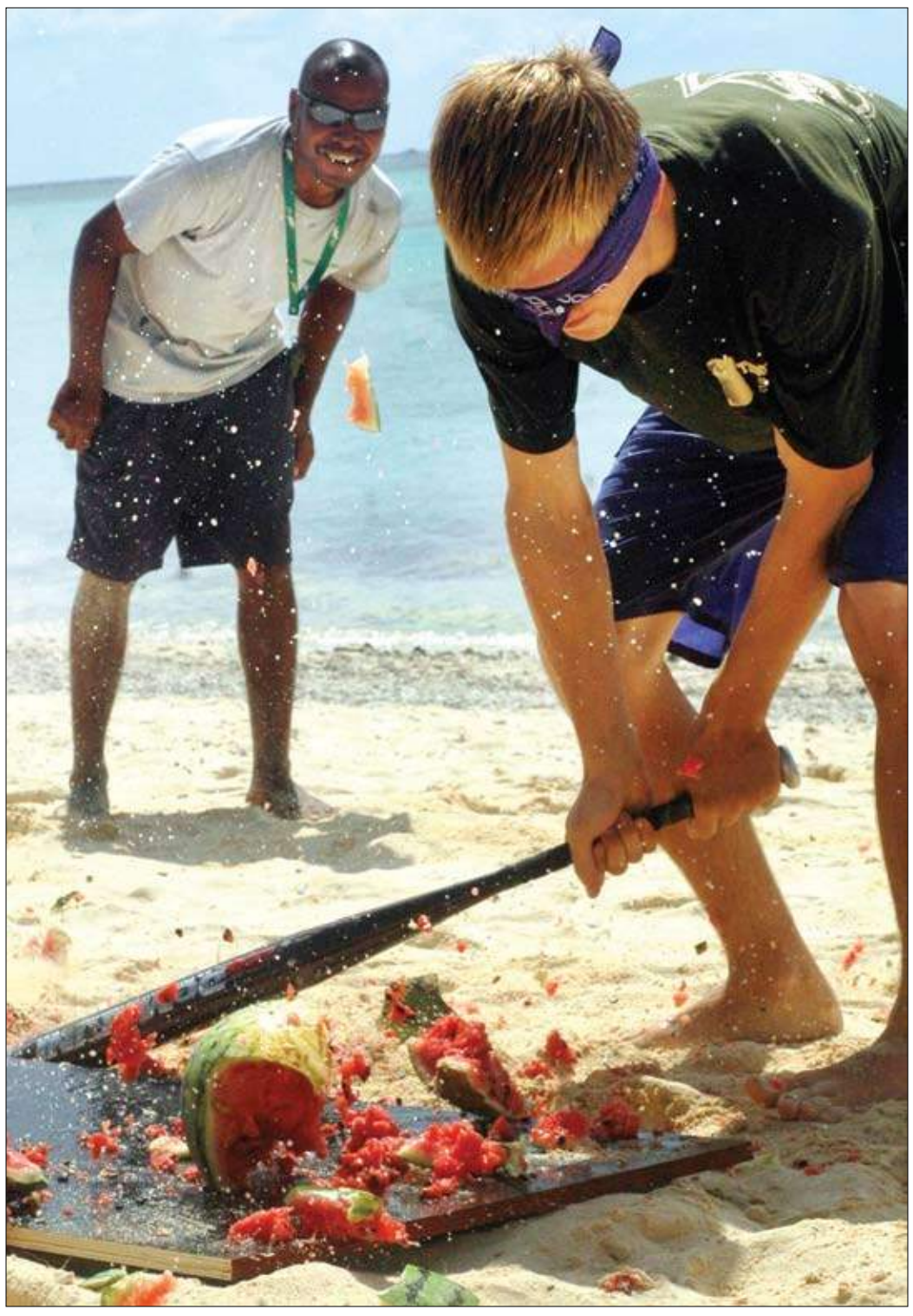

SUMMER BASH JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A blindfolded man smashes a watermelon during one of the fun activities in the 2008 Summer Bash Party at the Palms Resort Saipan Saturday afternoon.

Two appointees named to vacant CPA board. **PAGE 2**
High Court issues rationale for reapportionment, redistricting. **PAGE 3**

Around the CNMI

Two appointees named to vacant CPA board

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has named two appointees to the board of directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Villagomez has nominated former Sen. Thomas Villagomez to be one of Saipan's representatives to the CPA board, and Manuel Villagomez to represent Tinian.

They are the first two appointees to be named to replace the CPA board members who had resigned at the governor's request last month. The ports authority remains under the administration's direct control mainly because it does not have a functioning board.

"The Governor intends to submit a complete list of qualified candidates for Senate confirmation at the earliest possible opportunity," press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said. "The process takes time because he must consult with his key advisors, community members, and the mayors of Rota and Tinian to ensure that the best candidates are selected for Senate confirmation. The candidates must be screened, vetted, and carefully selected to ensure that the problems of the past are not repeated."

Appointments to the CPA board need Senate approval.

Senators during a session Friday said they are willing to act on CPA nominations immediately. They also expressed concern about keeping CPA under a state of emergency.

The CPA board of directors has seven members, including one representative each from Rota and Tinian.

The board members who have resigned are former chair Rex I. Palacios, Antonio Camacho, Connie Igisomar, Joe Lifoifoi, Alejo Mendiola, and Ray Cing. Another former member, Marian Tudela, has quit to accept another appointment to the NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees.

When he renewed the CPA state of emergency declaration on June 12, 2008, Fitial said, "The resignation of all members of the board of directors of the CPA has resulted in an ongoing vacuum of leadership at the CPA."

"Lack of appropriate leadership brought the CPA to the brink of technical default on the March 1, 1998 indenture. Until strong and appropriate leadership is restored to the CPA board of directors the danger of technical default on the March 1, 1998 indenture will remain a significant risk to the CPA and the CNMI as a whole," he added.

SUNSET SWIM JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Silhouetted by Saipan's breathtaking sunset, 9-year-old Carlo Santos jumps into the waters at the Garapan Fishing Base area.

'Post cops at intersections during outages'

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has told the Department of Public Safety to monitor traffic during power outages.

Villagomez in a directive to DPS Commissioner Clyde Norita said DPS should plan for the outages and provide traffic officers at major intersections.

"An integral part of dealing with the outages is to provide safety to our drivers and their passengers," he said. "The Department of Public Safety should not wait for an accident to occur before it consistently provides traffic assistance during power outages."

Villagomez said that power outages will continue while the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. works on the engines at the various power plants on Saipan.

However, the power situation is seen to improve once CUC's contractor, Aggreko International, starts bringing rental generators into Saipan. The generators will provide additional 15 megawatt to Saipan's power supply.

Aggreko will ship the generators once CUC makes a partial payment of $1.5 million. The shipment will come from the company's office in Singapore, and is expected to take 26 days to arrive. An additional 10 days is needed to install the generators and place them on Saipan's power grid.

The $6-million contract is for one year and includes the generators, lube oil, personnel costs, and maintenance. The monthly rate is pegged at $504,000, for a total of $6 million a year. CUC will provide diesel to the company. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Hawaii solar mandate a first in US

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Hawaii has become the first state in the nation to pass into law a requirement that all new homes built after Jan. 1, 2010, be equipped with solar or other energy efficient hot water systems.

Signed into law by Hawaii's governor on June 26, the bill's introducer, Senate Majority Leader Gary L. Hooser (D-Kauai, Niihau) said, "Hawaii is almost totally dependent on imported oil for its energy needs and estimates show that, with this law, our oil consumption will be cut by 30,000 barrels during the first year and continues to decline exponentially thereafter."

While allowing for other energy efficient choices, the new law is widely seen as a solar hot water mandate and is expected to cut home energy usage in Hawaii by an average of 30 percent starting in 2010.

With the price of oil recently reaching $140 per barrel, Hooser considers Hawaii's move toward cheaper, cleaner energy "a vital decision for our island state."

"While the instituting of broad mandates is never an easy thing to do, the public benefits resulting from the passage of this measure are huge," he added.

Hawaii currently has the highest electricity costs in the nation and it is estimated that homeowners will save $600 annually for a family of four. "The additional disposable income combined with a cumulative multiplier effect of that income circulating in the Hawaii economy, rather than being exported to import foreign oil, will result in significant additional economic activity," Hooser said.

Economics aside, the groundbreaking measure enables Hawaii to lead the nation in the country's growing effort to combat global warming. Hawaii's switch to solar will prevent the emission of over 10,000 tons of greenhouse gas from entering the atmosphere every year. Heating water via a solar system is significantly more efficient that using a conventional electric resistant water heater. Utilizing a typical family of four, conventional heaters consume electricity at a rate of 240 to 400 kWh/month. Solar water heaters consume at a rate of only 20 to 80 kWh/month.

The countries of Israel and Spain presently also require solar heating in all newly built residences—and Hawaii becomes the first state in the nation to institute such requirements.

Hooser said his next move was to "spread the gospel of solar" and that he would be meeting with legislative and community leaders in other "sunshine states" such as Cali-

See HAWAII on Page 4

High Court issues rationale for reapportionment, redistricting

In a lengthy opinion issued Friday, the NMI Supreme Court explained its decision to adopt the argument put forth by the NMI House of Representatives and the Saipan mayor to give Saipan two additional representatives based on the total number of Commonwealth residents, including noncitizens. The vourt's opinion also explained its decision to redraw Saipan's election districts.

On May 14, 2007, Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan and Tina Sablan, at that time a private citizen but now a House representative, petitioned the NMI Supreme Court to reapportion and redistrict the NMI House of Representatives. Petitioners argued the votes of Rota and Tinian residents were diluted in relation to Saipan votes because the House of Representatives was previously apportioned based on the Commonwealth's total population. Petitioners argued only U.S. citizens should have been considered. By also considering noncitizens, which are present in higher numbers on Saipan, petitioners argued Saipan was given more representatives than it was entitled to.

Based on the number of citizens reported by the 2000 U.S. census, petitioners asked the court to reduce Saipan's representatives from 16 to 12. They also asked the court to adopt their proposed redistricting plan, which divided Saipan into 12 election districts, each district electing a single representative.

The House of Representatives disagreed with petitioners. The House argued that all Commonwealth residents, including both citizens and noncitizens, should be considered for apportionment. Based on the Commonwealth's total population, the House argued that, instead of decreasing the number of Saipan representatives, the number should be increased to prevent vote dilution. The House also disagreed with petitioners' proposed election districts. It argued the then-current election districts should be maintained.

The Saipan mayor, who, like the House of Representatives, was invited by the court to comment on the proposals, agreed with the House that the number of Saipan representatives should be increased to 18. However, the mayor agreed with petitioners' proposed election districts, although he suggested creating six additional super districts.

On Aug. 7, 2007, the court adopted the House of Representatives' and mayor's suggestion that Saipan be apportioned two additional representatives. On the issue of election districts, the court devised its own redistricting plan. It determined that because it was "without population information other than that provided by the census… Saipan must be redistricted along census boundaries to ensure sufficient representational equality." However, the court noted that because the upcoming 2007 election left insufficient time to adequately address the numerous and important issues, including "the historical, political, and legal relationship between the Commonwealth and the United States," it would do so in a supplemental opinion to be issued later.

The court's supplemental opinion, issued Friday, begins by tracing the history of the United States Supreme Court's one person, one vote cases, which require that elected officials represent approximately the same number of people. It then discussed the history and legal issues that shaped Covenant language balancing NMI self-government with U.S. sovereignty. Next, the court explained its conclusion that, although the NMI House of Representatives must be apportioned in large part based on population, the U.S. Supreme Court's one person, one vote rule does not apply as if the NMI was a state. Instead, the court based its decision on the Covenant and the NMI Constitution's language addressing the House of Representatives.

The NMI Constitution requires the Legislature to regularly reapportion the House of Representatives. Only when it fails to do, and only after the governor neglects to remedy the Legislature's failure, may the court be called on to reapportion the House. The court noted that reapportioning the House of Representatives "is quintessentially a legislative function. And being within the province of the political process, numerous and varied policy preferences will vie for attention as apportionment compromises are made." However, the court stated that when it is left to reapportion the House, it will abstain from political decision making. Instead, the court "will seek to divide the NMI population into substantially equal election districts, considering only those factors required by our Constitution or long recognized policy goals such as maintaining historically distinct subdivisions." Further, the court's "decision to reapportion the House by total population rather than United States citizens [is] similarly rooted in NMI Constitutional language and policy."

The court explained that the NMI Legislature may revisit its reapportionment and redistricting plan. However, when the Legislature engages in reapportionment or redistricting, its authority is not unlimited. "[B] ecause population distribution remains the benchmark against which reapportionment or redistricting plans are measured, legislative decisions creating substantial population deviations across election districts must be justified. And if apportionment is based on a population figure excluding certain classes of residents, the decision to exclude those individuals must likewise be based on legitimate legislative concerns."

Although joining with Justices Alexandro C. Castro and John A. Manglona in most of the court's decision, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan wrote separately to express his disagreement with the majority's decision to increase Saipan's representatives and redistrict the island. The Chief Justice reiterated the majority's view that appointment is a legislative function. However, in contrast to the majority's approach, he maintained the most apolitical course of action would have been to redistrict Saipan into a single district, permitting "an at large representative election." He further disagreed with the majority's decision to add two Saipan representatives. He found that population deviations between election districts were "tolerable" at their previous levels. ***(PR)***

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Apatang urges Perry Inos' confirmation

A Saipan lawmaker has urged the Senate to confirm the nomination of attorney Perry Inos to serve as a judge at the CNMI Superior Court.

Rep. David Apatang said Inos is "an excellent choice and a great addition to the Commonwealth's bench."

"I have known Perry for many years now and I can personally vouch that he is a person who exemplifies strong leadership, integrity, and character," he said.

He said the 13 years Inos has spent practicing law in the Commonwealth makes him qualified for the post of Superior Court judge. Inos initially worked as a government prosecutor and later, entered into private practice as a defense attorney.

"In an adversarial justice system like the CNMI's, I firmly believe that judges serving on the bench should possess the same legal experiences and insights Perry was fortunate enough to gain over the years. It is without question that these qualities have equipped Perry for the important role of being a fair and just adjudicator of law," Apatang said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has nominated Inos to replace retired Judge Juan T. Lizama. The appointment requires Senate approval.

A few days before Inos' appointment was announced, the Tinian legislative delegation, including three senators and one representative, publicly asked the governor to nominate an attorney from Tinian. Tinian's pool of attorneys includes Lucia Blanco-Maratita, Ramon K. Quichocho, Joey Patrick San Nicolas, and Janet H. King.

Inos has been in private practice since 1997. Before that, he worked as a teacher at Rota High School, student coordinator at the Rota campus of the Northern Marianas College, assistant attorney general for the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division, and associate attorney at the law office of now Supreme Court Justice John A. Manglona.

Inos received his high school diploma from Rota High School in 1983 and graduated with a bachelor's degree, major in business management, from the University of Guam in 1987. He attended the University of New Mexico School of Law and received his law degree in 1994.

He is married to Debra Inos and they have three children. He is the son of Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos and nephew of Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

CHASING WATERFALLS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A tourist spends her afternoon taking souvenir photos of the man-made fountain at the Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque.

Congress nears passage of bill on NMI wage study

From Page 1

But the White House has threatened to veto the bill because of the domestic programs added to the Bush administration's war request.

Pete A. Tenorio, the CNMI's resident representative to Washington, D.C., has said the studies will provide "more data on the economic condition of the CNMI than has ever been collected before."

Under the bill, the U.S. Government Accountability Office will be required to study the impact of the first two minimum wage hikes in the CNMI and American Samoa. GAO will study how the wage increases have affected the rates of employment and the living standards of workers. It will include other factors that impact employment and quality of living such as inflation in the cost of food, energy, and other commodities.

In addition, GAO will look at how future increases might affect employment and the living standards of workers and the profitability of businesses, while also considering other factors such as energy costs and the value of tax benefits.

The GAO study is due between March 15, 2009 and April 25, 2009.

Furthermore, the bill requires federal agencies to include the CNMI and American Samoa in regular studies done for the 50 states. The requirement applies to U.S. Department of Labor's household and establishment surveys, the Bureau of Economic Analysis' gross domestic data reports, and the Census Bureau's population estimates and demographic profiles.

The minimum wages for the Northern Marianas and American Samoa increased by another 50 cents last month. It was the second increase under the federal wage law signed last year. The minimum wage levels in both jurisdictions will continue to rise until they reach federal level of $7.25.

The CNMI minimum wage is now $4.05. For American Samoa, current minimum wages vary by industry, with the most significant being the minimum wage for the tuna canning industry, which is currently $4.26 an hour.

Both the CNMI and American Samoa have urged Congress to conduct more studies on the wage increase. Earlier this year, the GAO released a report on the wage hikes, saying they may have adverse impacts on the two island economies. But the GAO also said more information is needed to make a more scientific projection.

Commerce pushing passage of 2 insurance bills

From Page 1

ment is trying to renew interest among lawmakers in two key items of long sought after legislation, including one that would raise by $75,000 the minimum amount of money insurers must have before they can do business in the Commonwealth.

Increasing this threshold could prevent problems like the many cases in which foreign workers owed money due to surety bonds—insurance employers buy for foreign workers that pays them if the businesses where they work shut down—have gone unpaid because the companies that sold the bonds lack the assets to cover those claims, insurance sector sources say.

In addition, the report calls for legislation expanding the Commonwealth's rules for reinsurance, a practice that gives financial backing to insurance companies.

Currently, insurance companies must have $25,000 in capital to sell insurance in the Commonwealth, the report says, but Commerce wants that increased to $100,000 to "ensure that sufficient and adequate reserves are maintained by an insurer in the event substantial losses are experienced.

Eli Buenaventura, president of the Northern Marianas Insurance Association, an organization representing insurance companies, said the move to a higher capital threshold is "long overdue." The legislation could address the problems with surety bonds that foreign workers have faced, he added.

"If this recommendation will materialize, this would mean an additional capital injection of more than $600,000 to the current domestic insurers, assuming they write at least 8 classes of insurance," he said. "Hopefully, with this change, domestic insurers would be financially solvent to handle their claims."

However, Sixto Igisomar, one of the insurance association's directors, noted that a key obstacle to the legislation is enforcing it. Local regulators, he said, suffers from sever staffing shortage that has led to lax regulation. "Who is to say that an insurer is negative in their reserves if no one is looking and there is no regulation that is supposed to penalize the negative reserves?" he asked.

Commerce's proposal could have a devastating impact on small insurance firms that sell surety bonds, according to a representative of the Oceania Insurance Corporation, which sells some of the bonds.

"This might put those companies out of business," the representative said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "I'd feel bad for the small companies if this were to happen."

The department's report contains the most recent available data on the solvency of the Commonwealth's insurers. But how closely it reflects current conditions is unclear because the report details data gathered in 2006. A long backlog of insurance company data the department must analyze has prevented it from having current information available, Commerce officials have said. The report, however, appears to suggest that at least a handful of companies in the Commonwealth lack the assets to pay claims on the surety bonds they sell.

Meanwhile, the report urges lawmakers to expand the local insurance commissioner's authority to regulate reinsurance, the financial backing that insurance companies use to support the policies they sell and protect themselves against risk.

"Current provisions of the Insurance Act relating to reinsurance are very limited," the report says. "In fact, current provisions only provide for the admission or approval of reinsurers in the CNMI prior to engaging in business."

The report proposes legislation giving the commissioner the power to require reinsurance companies to file official agreements on the protection they sell to insurers and for the insurance commissioner to oversee those and approve those agreements.

Giving Commerce this added authority could spark some controversy, however. Igisomar, for example, suggested Commerce should have a more limited form of authority over reinsurers.

"What they should review and approve is the financial ability of such reinsurers," he said. "If they feel that the reinsurer is insufficient, then they should then inform the insurance carrier that the reinsurer is not acceptable."

Officials: 30,000 troops to be shipped to Iraq

From Page 1

place troops currently there. But the decisions could change depending on whether Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, decides in the fall to further reduce troop levels in Iraq.

Several officials familiar with the deployments spoke on condition of anonymity because the orders have not yet been made public.

According to the officials, three active-duty Army brigade combat teams, one Army National Guard brigade and two Marine regimental combat teams are being notified that they are being sent to Iraq in early 2009. Officials would not release the specific units involved because the soldiers and Marines and their families have not all been told.

The Guard unit, however, is the 56th Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, from the Pennsylvania National Guard. Members of that unit - a large brigade with heavily armored Stryker vehicles - were told last October that they should be prepared to deploy to Iraq early in 2009. The order this week is the formal notice that includes a more specific time frame.

Currently, the final brigade involved in the military buildup in Baghdad last year is pulling out of Iraq. That departure will leave 15 combat brigades there - compared to a high of 20 for much of the past year. Other smaller units are also there, including troops doing security, logistics, air assaults, intelligence and medical aid.

Overall, there are about 146,000 forces in Iraq, and that number is expected to dip to about 142,000 by mid-July when that last unit is all out. That total is at least 7,000 more than the number of troops in Iraq before the buildup began early last year.

Petraeus told Congress in May that he is likely to recommend further troop reductions in Iraq, but he did not provide any details. If he decides in the fall that fewer brigades will be needed in Iraq during the next year, there is the chance that brigades could simply be directed to the war in Afghanistan instead.

There is a broad consensus that more troops are needed in Afghanistan, to both train the security forces and fight the insurgents. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and President Bush, earlier this year, told NATO allies that they would increase troop levels in Afghanistan in 2009 in response to the growing violence.

HAWAII

From Page 2

fornia, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and Florida, encouraging them also to follow Hawaii's lead. According to Hooser, "Mandating solar hot water heating for all new homes is a no-brainer. This is the low hanging fruit, a low cost proven technology that saves homeowners money and is great for the environment".

Hawaii's new law also establishes a process to ensure quality control, provides for exceptions and other energy efficient alternatives and shifts existing state solar installation tax credits to homes built prior to 2010. ***(PR)***

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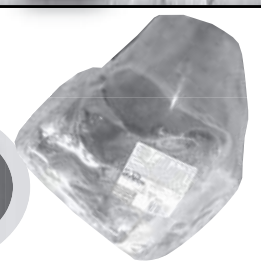

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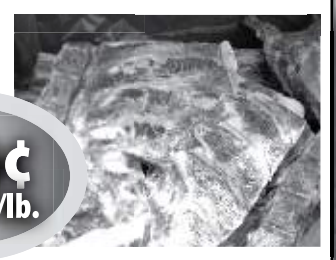

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PRODUCE

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Guns, yes and no

Presented with two historically plausible arguments about whether the Second Amendment secures an individual right to keep and bear arms, the Supreme Court on Thursday opted for the interpretation less suited to a 21st century America bedeviled by gun crime. That's the disappointing part of the court's long-awaited ruling striking down the District of Columbia's strict gun-control ordinance. Fortunately, even though the decision endorses the individual-right explanation, it may have limited influence.

Gun-rights advocates will focus on what they will see as the magic words in Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion for a 5-4 majority: "There seems to us no doubt, on the basis of both text and history, that the Second Amendment conferred an individual right to keep and bear arms." Although a bit wordy for a bumper sticker, in isolation it could have been composed by the National Rifle Association.

But Scalia immediately added this qualification: "Of course the right was not unlimited, just as the First Amendment's right of free speech was not." Elsewhere, Scalia explicitly cited gun-control laws not affected by this ruling, including those prohibiting felons and the mentally ill from possessing firearms, banning guns from schools and other "sensitive places" and, most important, regulating the sale of guns. Finally, Scalia's definition of weapons protected by the amendment—those in common use "for lawful purposes like self-defense"—would seem to exclude Uzis and machine guns. (This ruling thus does not provide an excuse for Congress not to reenact a federal ban on assault weapons.)

None of this changes the fact that the majority—including Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., who pledged fealty to precedent at his confirmation—has upended an interpretation of the Second Amendment that has been the majority view for more than half a century: that the amendment's reference to "a well-regulated" militia limits the right to keep and bear arms to organized military units such as the National Guard.

In his dissent, in which he tellingly traded historical—and linguistic—arguments with Scalia, Justice John Paul Stevens offered a spirited defense of the traditional view, one we wish the majority had embraced. But it is a fact that legal historians, some of them supporters of gun control as a matter of policy, increasingly have argued that the Second Amendment protects an individual right. (For that reason, some of them have advocated repeal of the amendment—an undesirable option because it would open up the entire Bill of Rights to revision.)

It was probably inevitable that the court would revisit this issue. The district's ordinance, which banned handguns and made it impossible for law-abiding citizens to keep working firearms in their homes, provided an unusually tempting target for justices who wanted to reconsider a constitutional issue that had been absent from their docket for almost 70 years. Thursday's decision needlessly complicated the lives of legislators seeking to bring gun violence under control. But it could have been worse.

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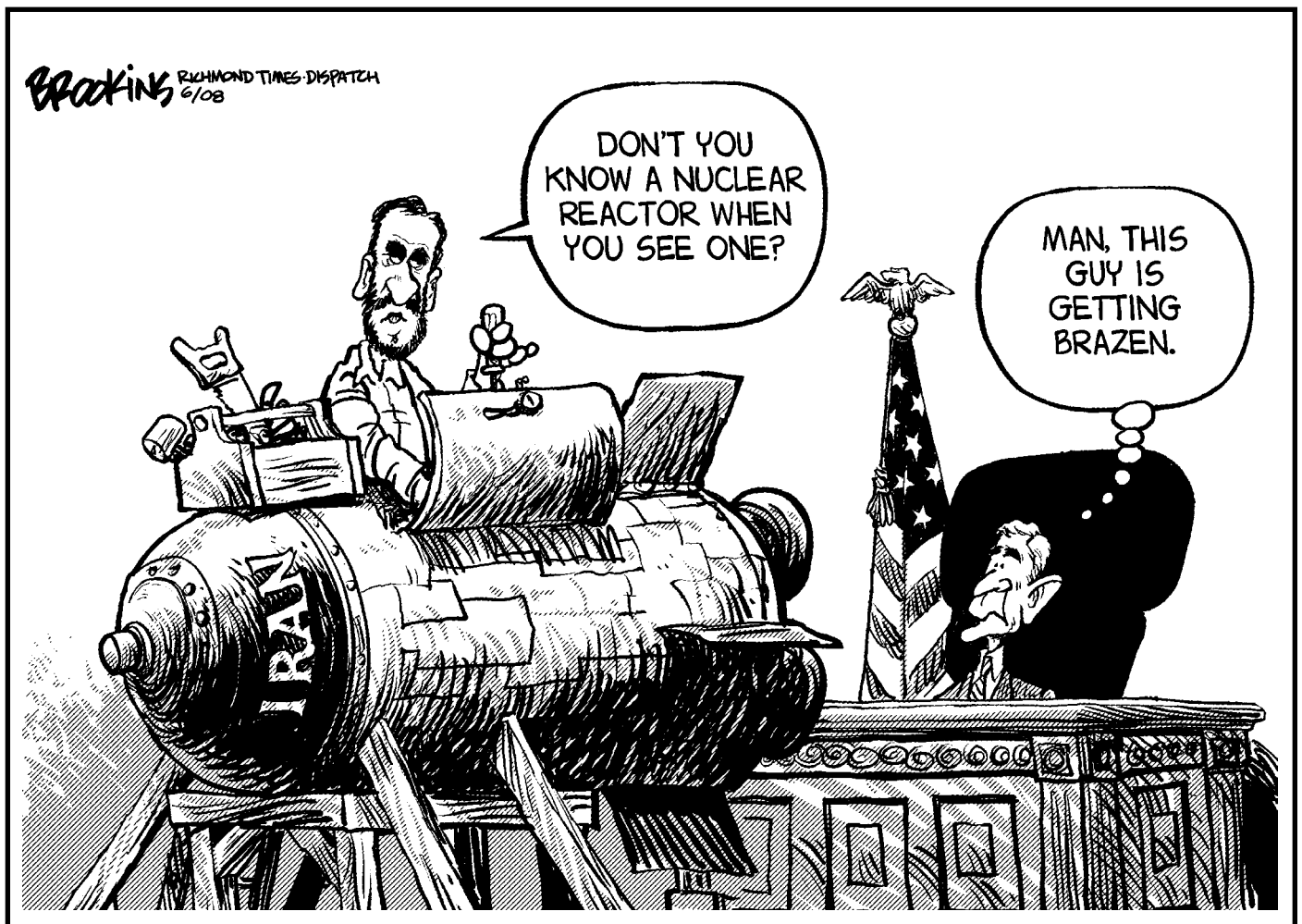
BROOKINS RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH 6/08
DON'T YOU KNOW A NUCLEAR REACTOR WHEN YOU SEE ONE?
MAN, THIS GUY IS GETTING BRAZEN.
IRAQ

Rice's rhetoric improves, but does it really matter?

By ROSA BROOKS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail her at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com.

You've come a long way, baby.

In 2000, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice published an essay in Foreign Affairs, "Promoting the National Interest." Back then, Rice was a Stanford professor and presidential candidate George W. Bush's senior foreign policy adviser, and the Washington establishment hung on her every word.

The article was brash, bold and widely seen as a Bush campaign manifesto. In it, Rice made the case for a hard-nosed U.S. foreign policy, one that would keep our national interests front and center and not be led astray by mushy globalist or humanitarian instincts or a foolish yearning for ideological purity.

Rice insisted that "it is simply not possible to ignore and isolate other powerful states that do not share (American) values." Realpolitik had to trump ideology. And she worried about what she saw as the "thinly stretched military" left "close to a breaking point" after eight years of values-based Clinton-era military interventions.

Although she asserted that our "commanding technological lead" gave our military "a battlefield advantage over any competitor" (Rice failed to predict insurgents or suicide bombers), she warned against nation building. "The military is ... not a civilian police force, it is not a political referee. And it is most certainly not designed to build a civilian society. ... It is one thing to have a limited political goal and to fight decisively for it; it is quite another to apply military force incrementally, hoping to find a political solution somewhere along the way."

Mmm-hmm.

Eight and a half years later, Rice has an essay in the July/August issue of Foreign Affairs. This time, she's "Rethinking the National Interest."

Good plan.

She begins with a politician's rhetorical trick: When possible, evade responsibility with the passive voice.

"What is the national interest?" she muses. In 2000, she now writes, "monumental changes were unfolding—changes that were recognized at the time but whose implications were largely unclear." Then, after 9/11, "the United States was swept into a fundamentally different world. We were called to lead with a new urgency and with a new perspective."

Presumably, being "called to lead ... with a new perspective" explains all the administration's numerous foreign policy about-faces. In "Rethinking the National Interest," there's little trace of the steely-eyed Kissinger disciple who warned against humanitarian diversions. Instead, Rice now tells us that the U.S. must focus on promoting democracy, human rights and economic development, especially in the poorest countries.

Analyzing the root causes of terrorism, Rice at times sounds like she wandered into the wrong political party. "In the broader Middle East," she asserts, for too long the U.S. "supported authoritarian regimes," but this "produced false stability ... there were virtually no legitimate channels for political expression." No wonder, then, "that al-Qaida found the troubled souls to prey on and exploit as its foot soldiers. ... Our theory of victory, therefore, must be to offer people a democratic path to advance their interests peacefully—to develop their talents, to redress injustices and to live in freedom and dignity. In this sense, the fight against terrorism is a kind of global counter-insurgency: The center of gravity is not the enemies we fight but the societies they are trying to radicalize." Right on.

On nation building, Rice admits her change of heart: "In 2000, I decried the role of the United States, in particular the U.S. military, in nation building. In 2008, it is absolutely clear that we will be involved in nation building for years to come." She goes on to say that we must take a "whole-of-government approach" to preventing state failure, with U.S. civilian agencies taking the lead. (A nice thought but one not likely to be accomplished with the scant 1,400 new civilian positions Rice proposes.)

Rice's article is wiser, subtler, humbler and sadder than her 2000 essay—at times, it's almost apologetic. There's still plenty not to like, but take out her reflexive defense of the Iraq war and a few rhetorical flourishes, and it could almost have been written by any of several leading Democrats.

For all that, Rice's latest essay has been almost universally ignored. No one seems to care much, one way or the other, about the secretary of State's foreign policy philosophy.

Maybe that's just Bush administration fatigue. Or maybe it really doesn't matter what Rice says. The philosophy she articulated in 2000 made no difference, and her revised one won't matter either. With Bush and Dick Cheney at the helm, Bush foreign policy will be what it's always been: morally bankrupt, intellectually incoherent and incompetently executed. And we're stuck with it for another seven months.

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A case of poetic justice. Literally.

WEYBRIDGE, Vt.—Last winter, which in Vermont is serious business, a gang of local teens—and a few people a little older—got a bright idea. The Homer Noble Farm in Ripton, famous as the summer home of Robert Frost between 1938 and 1963, stood empty. It struck them as just the place for a party. Armed with lots of beer, the group made its way up the long, snow-packed road to the farmhouse and broke in. Over the course of a rowdy evening, they managed to inflict some $10,000 worth of damage. But it wasn't until a hiker discovered the aftermath of tay Parinihe party that the law caught up with the revelers. All 28 were charged with trespassing.

I was horrified to hear about the break-in but relieved to learn that the place—where I had stayed off and on over many years, especially while writing my biography of Frost—was not damaged beyond repair. As it happened, I had just finished a book called "Why Poetry Matters," a study on the role poetry can play in our daily lives that deals extensively with Frost's ideas about the use of metaphor.

"Unless you are at home in the metaphor," Frost once wrote, "you are not safe anywhere." These are lines I've said over and over in my head a thousand times—as a poet, as a teacher of poetry. Suddenly, Frost's ruined house seemed to have become a kind of metaphor itself—a symbol for his poems, which had somehow been violated, broken into.

With these thoughts of Frost floating in my head, I got a call from the prosecutor in the case. His idea, which the judge embraced, was that part of the young invaders' community service would involve discussing Frost's poetry with me. If they studied with me for a period of time (to be determined by the judge and me), their criminal records in this case would be erased.

Would I, the court wondered, agree to such a thing?

The prosecutor's message was left on my answering machine, and I replayed it several times in disbelief. I went off to play basketball and mentioned the notion to my friends—the guys I've played ball with three times a week for 25 years. Naturally, there was some derision.

The implications of this project for the justice system seemed difficult to comprehend. Was this just punishment? Was poetry ever punishment? Would I be wasting my time and the time of these young people?

Trusting a gut feeling, I agreed to teach some classes on Frost, with mandatory attendance by those who wished to wipe their records clean. My hunch was that Frost himself would certainly have endorsed the plan, having been a man who approved of what he often called "wildness."

I settled on two main poems, "Out, Out—" and "The Road Not Taken." Other poems would have done as well or better, but these came immediately to mind, and I went with them. I've been teaching in colleges for 33 years, and I've never missed with "Out, Out—," a poem about a boy who loses his hand while cutting wood on a Vermont farm. The result is almost immediate death. Those who watch him die simply go back to work, as they must. The poem is set in the years of subsistence farming in Vermont, and a family could not lose a moment laying in the wood for winter.

Frost begins with an astonishing vision of Vermont: "Five mountain ranges one behind the other / Under the sunset far into Vermont." I've often stood at the Frost house and looked out at the mountains, and I understood those lines in context. I repeated them with emphasis. Each of these kids had at some point stood still, looked out over the Green Mountains and experienced the glory of that view. This is life itself, which Frost puts at stake in his poem. The students were unprepared for the sudden death of the boy, the shocking finality of it, and the fact that those who were not the "one dead" turned immediately back to work. They registered their shock, and I could see from their rapt attention that Frost had once again worked his uncanny magic. He had unlocked some hearts.

Then I turned to "The Road Not Taken." I did so gingerly, fully aware that the poem is complicated, shrewd beyond measure. In a poem of four stanzas, Frost tells the reader over and over that the two roads going into the woods are "really about the same." Indeed, "Both that morning equally lay / In leaves no step had trodden black." Nevertheless, the speaker understands that at the end of his life, he will decide to tell those who care to listen that he took "the road less traveled by." That ending has provided me (and countless other teachers) with endless productive hours of classroom discussion.

But in this case—in a stifling public building in Addison County, surrounded by anxious kids trying to wipe their records clean as they pored over my Xeroxed copies of the poetry—I felt that I had to work more simply, with the symbol itself: two roads, choices. "Life is about choices," said one of the teens. Indeed, I said. I pointed out that the speaker in the poem was deep in the woods and that it was always difficult to figure out the right road when confronted with a forking path. They acknowledged having had many such experiences, quite literally, in the Vermont woods.

"You are now in deep woods," I told them. They seemed confused. "If this isn't a deep wood, I don't know what is," I added. Many of them lit up.

There were smiles around the room. In their short lives, this was among their darkest moments. They could choose one way out of this class or another. I told them that it is hard to predict consequences with any certainty but that Frost is calling our attention to the basic fact of our lives: that we must suffer a thousand choices, that we must make so many little and large decisions, and that much depends on them.

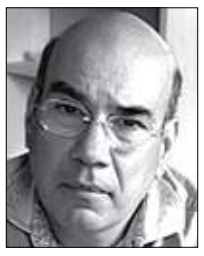
A very shy and frightened-looking boy in a baseball cap said, "I took the wrong road."

"You did," I said. "But there are other roads. Lots of them."

I can't say what most of these students got out of this program, but I know I got something. I found the teaching situation itself pressurized in a unique way. I found their gazes fierce and defensive and proud and, ultimately, yielding. My guess is that they know a lot more about Frost as a presiding spirit in American poetry now than they did before the break-in. More importantly, they know that poetry matters (at least to some people) and that it can help us live our lives more attentively—if only they will give themselves up to the language as it moves through time and space, over and again.

By JAY PARINI
Special to The Washington Post

Jay Parini, a poet and novelist, teaches at Middlebury College.



"Out, Out —"

By ROBERT FROST

The buzz saw snarled and rattled in the yard
And made dust and dropped stove-length sticks of wood,
Sweet-scented stuff when the breeze drew across it.
And from there those that lifted eyes could count
Five mountain ranges one behind the other
Under the sunset far into Vermont.
And the saw snarled and rattled, snarled and rattled,
As it ran light, or had to bear a load.
And nothing happened: day was all but done.
Call it a day, I wish they might have said
To please the boy by giving him the half hour
That a boy counts so much when saved from work.
His sister stood beside him in her apron
To tell them "Supper." At the word, the saw,
As if it meant to prove saws know what supper meant,
Leaped out at the boy's hand, or seemed to leap _
He must have given the hand. However it was,
Neither refused the meeting. But the hand!
The boy's first outcry was a rueful laugh,
As he swung toward them holding up the hand
Half in appeal, but half as if to keep
The life from spilling. Then the boy saw all _
Since he was old enough to know, big boy
Doing a man's work, though a child at heart _
He saw all was spoiled. "Don't let him cut my hand off _
The doctor, when he comes. Don't let him, sister!"
So. But the hand was gone already.
The doctor put him in the dark of ether.
He lay and puffed his lips out with his breath.
And then — the watcher at his pulse took a fright.
No one believed. They listened to his heart.
Little — less — nothing! — and that ended it.
No more to build on there. And they, since they
Were not the one dead, turned to their affairs.

A heretic's advice to Obama

WASHINGTON—Today, I shall commit an act of heresy so offensive to cherished Washington beliefs that revocation of my citizenship in the nation's capital is quite likely to follow.

Nonetheless, I press on.

My offense? I contend, contrary to accepted Washington doctrine, that should Barack Obama be elected president, he ought not to allow his administration to fall into the clutches of Washington insiders.

(The distant sound you hear is that of long knives being sharpened.)

This advice is offered for Obama's own good.

More than 30 years of observation has led me to conclude that Washington insiders are to new administrations what steroids are to baseball. They are easily available, can produce a profound sense of strength and are hard to withdraw from once trouble hits home. My colleague in The Post Co. family, Evan Thomas of Newsweek, touched lightly upon this topic in a recent column. But he reached a different conclusion.

Thomas wrote about a Washington party he attended recently with various movers and shakers who strongly believe that a new president "need(s) to hire people who know the town, who are `wired' and get around."

"Someone in my little group did try to wonder what it would be like if a president only hired outsiders, but he was quickly drowned out," he wrote.

That voice was mine.

Today I continue, uninterrupted.

First of all, my thoughts about "Washington insiders" apply to Democrats and Republicans alike. Regardless of their political stripes, Washington insiders share a received wisdom that holds that no new president can make it in this town without them.

Democratic insiders point to Carter administration pratfalls caused by a lack of reliance upon, well, people like themselves. Bill Clinton's first-year mistakes were chalked up to the naivete of out-of-towners. George W. Bush heard some of the same slams against his team of Texans when he first hit town.

To be fair, and balanced, I acknowledge that insiders have a point when they say political novices don't know their way around Washington, that they are quite likely to get lost. Nothing like having a guide dog around when the territory is hard to see, the insiders will tell you.

Here's another point in their favor:

Both Democratic and GOP power brokers contribute an impressive amount of time, treasure and talent to their party's fortunes.

They are sincere adherents to their party's beliefs. Many have served in government, occupying positions of great responsibility. Some of them go back to the administrations of Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

By COLBERT I. KING
Special to The Washington Post

Insiders also come to the table with experience in the ways of Washington gained through their own mishaps and the mistakes of others.

But here's my problem with putting that crowd in charge. They live by the old rules of Washington politics and, simply stated, they are in it for themselves.

To be sure, as dedicated partisans, they want their new president to succeed. But unlike untried recruits and enlistees eager to go the distance for their leader, Washington insiders will go to the ground at the first sign of a threat to their own eminence.

Having acquired the status of "mover and shaker"—which guarantees lucrative clients and consulting contracts, along with invitations to A-list gatherings—Washington insiders can't afford to be associated with losers, especially anything resembling a bumbling failure.

Retaining their lofty standing among Washington's political, social and artistic intelligentsia ranks uber alles.

Thus, when the new president hits a rough patch—and they all do—Washington insiders are usually the first to duck and cover, and undergo a conversion from out-front cheerleader to inside backbiter.

They do it in a time-honored Washington way. They cover their derrieres by indulging in the blame game over lunch with their Capitol Hill contacts, with K Street lobbyists, with Massachusetts Avenue think-tankers and with those of us in the media—all on background, of course.

As they pick at their salads and sip their mineral water, they lament, oh, they sooo lament, the clumsiness of the naive new commander in chief who foolishly failed to heed their wise counsel.

"We" becomes "they" without so much as a batting of the eye.

With Washington insiders, personal aggrandizement is everything.

Does this mean there's no role for such people in a presidential campaign or future administration? Of course not. They know stuff. Just don't put them in charge.

Equipped with common sense, a president can learn from Washington insiders, at least enough to avoid some of the perils of inside-the-Beltway politics.

But beware: Those folks come with a price.

Now I'm off to the gallows.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79	▲87° ▼79°

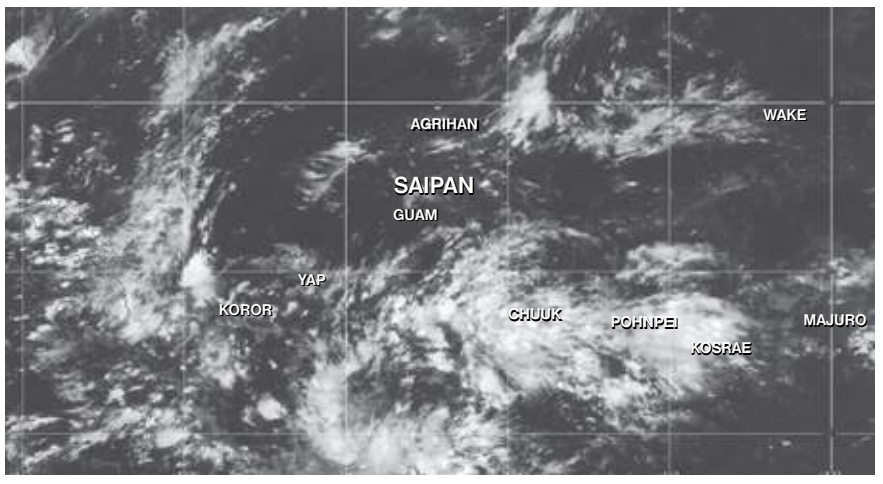
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼70
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼74
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼60
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼63
Manila	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲56	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲80	▼66
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼67
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼65
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼66
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼67
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼58
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼67
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲83	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low centered near 23N158E is associated with isolated showers and thunderstorms west of Wake Island within a line from 17N155E to 25N161E to 19N168E back to 17N155E. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 4N130E to 3N136E. Trade-winds converging north of the trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Palau within 100 miles of a line from 9N130E to 3N134E. A weak surface trough extends northward from EQ139E to 6N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring southeast of Yap between the equator and 7N from 138E to 145E. Another surface trough extends northward from 3N148E to 15N148E to 25N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within a large area bounded by a line from 6N144E to 20N149E to 3N155E to EQ150E back to 6N144E. This area lies southeast of Guam and includes Chuuk state. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei and Kosrae states within 200 miles of a line from 10N157E to 4N162E. Trade-wind convergence is also producing scattered showers over the northern Marshall Islands across Kwajalein atoll within 100 miles of a line from 9N167E to 9N173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:46AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:19AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:23PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:56PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:51AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:34AM	2:46PM
Monday	2:25AM	3:51PM
Tuesday	3:22AM	4:59PM
Wednesday	4:27AM	6:06PM
Thursday	5:34AM	7:09PM

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- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

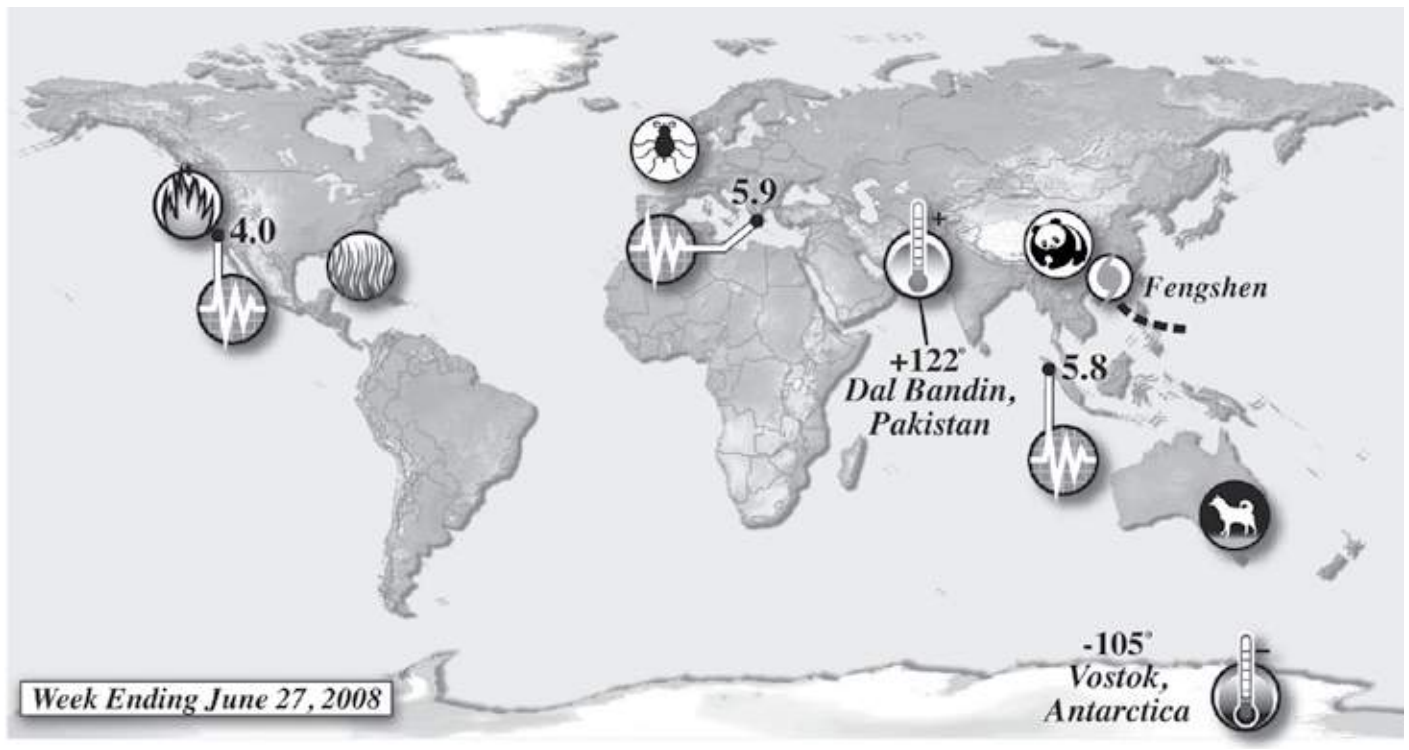
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



California Firestorms

An unprecedented outbreak of lightning strikes ignited more than 800 wildfires in a single day across Northern California. A record-dry spring followed by early summer heat and freak electrical storms were responsible for one of the worst days for wildfires in the state's history. A pall of thick smoke obscured the sky and reduced visibility to less than 2 miles in San Francisco and other cities of Northern California. Veteran Bay Area meteorologist Mike Pechner described the huge clouds of smoke as the worst in living memory. Even with out-of-state firefighters brought in at the request of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the sheer number of blazes meant that many of them were left to burn out of control. Smoke from the fires also created unhealthful air quality.

Beetle Rescue

A British wildlife trust is enlisting backyard gardeners to help save an endangered insect that has already become extinct in several parts of Europe. The People's Trust for Endangered Species is asking homeowners to bury buckets of wood chips in their gardens to provide the stag beetle larva a place to eat and grow until it can emerge as a full-fledged beetle. Intensified farming and the spread of housing subdivisions has had a devastating on the insect's habitat. "Just the fact that people tend to keep their gardens tidier than they used to, with bigger patios and well-groomed beds, is having an effect," trust spokesman Jill Nelson told The Observer. "There is not enough old wood or roots for them to eat." Stag beetles spend six or seven years growing underground before they emerge briefly to mate.

River of Grass

Environmental groups expressed delight over the decision by the state of Florida to buy 300 square miles of farmland to restore a large part of the Everglades wetlands. The plan will pay the firm United States Sugar $1.7 billion for the land, which will allow the shallow "river of grass" to flow unimpeded from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay at the southern tip of the Sunshine State. Cane fields have cut off the natural flow of fresh waters from the lakes in central Florida to the open sea for more than 50 years. Besides helping to restore the habitat of many species across the Everglades, the project should also capture vast quantities of rainwater, which will help quench the thirst of South Florida subdivisions that have slowly encroached into the wetlands over the past several decades.

Panda Diet

The destruction of large tracts of bamboo forest by last month's devastating Chinese earthquake is forcing some of the country's famed pandas to go on a diet. State media report that breeders at the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Research Station in Sichuan province are being forced to ration the animal's main choice of food because landslides triggered by the 8.0 magnitude quake ravaged much of the province's bamboo. Breeders say they are giving the pandas animal feed and fruit as a substitute until new bamboo shoots emerge and become large enough to harvest. Wildlife officials also announced that ongoing tremors have forced them to move all pandas kept at the Hetaoping Research and Conservation Center in the mountainous Wolong Nature Reserve to other breeding centers away from the strongest seismic activity.

Typhoon Fengshen

One of the most tragic periods in the Philippines' natural disaster-battered history occurred when Typhoon Fengshen struck the country with little warning. High winds and torrential rainfall killed hundreds of people, many of whom perished when a ferry en route from Manila to Cebu sank with 862 on board. At least 622 people were killed by the storm's fury on land. Fengshen dissipated over southern China after making landfall as a weak tropical storm near Hong Kong.

Earthquakes

Inland portions of the Los Angeles metropolitan area were jolted by a 4.0 magnitude quake, but there were no reports of damage or injuries.

■ Earth movements were also felt in southwestern Greece and Sumatra.

Canine Growth

Australian researchers say they have found that the country's wild dogs have grown 20 percent in size over the past 50 years due to cross-breeding between dingos and escaped pet dogs. Ricky Spencer of the University of Western Sydney analyzed the weight and size of nearly 2,000 wild dogs captured in every Australian state and territory in making his conclusion. "We are basically talking dogs that were on average probably around about 31 or 33 pounds that are now sort of heading toward the 37.5- or 42-pound weight range," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. Spencer says he fears the wild dogs crossbreeding with the dingo threatens that famed canine's existence as a distinct subspecies.

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NM court refuses obscene name change

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) -- A New Mexico appeals court on Friday ruled against a Los Alamos man who wanted to change his name to a phrase containing a popular four-letter obscenity. The man appealed after a state district judge in Bernalillo County refused his request to change his name to "F--- Censorship!" Judge Nan Nash ruled that the proposed name change was "obscene, offensive and would not comport with common decency." The man - whose current legal name is Variable - argued on appeal that it was improper government censorship to deny him the name change. "We do not believe that the district court's action infringes on petitioner's right to free speech," a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals said in its ruling. The man has the right to call himself whatever he wants, unless there's fraud or misrepresentation involved, the judges said. But once he seeks court approval for a name change, the court has the authority to turn him down on several grounds, including if the name is offensive to common decency and good taste, the judges ruled. That law was clarified in a 2004 case in the same court that apparently involved the same petitioner. In that case, an Albuquerque man whose name was Snaphappy Fishsuit Mokiligon got the go-ahead from the appeals court to change his name to Variable.

Utah woman find snakes in oxygen generator package

ROY, Utah (AP) -- A Utah woman who received an oxygen generator in the mail got something extra in the package: two rat snakes. Unlimited Oxygen of Mooresville, Ind., said recent flooding probably flushed the snakes out of a barn near the company's warehouse. The snakes took refuge in a package sent to Gaye Hurst, who at first thought they were hoses and part of the equipment. Hurst, 55, said she ordered the oxygen generator for glass blowing. State wildlife officers took custody of the snakes said they might send them back to Indiana.

Good Housekeeping

Time to decorate: Where to begin?

By ELLEN MCCARTHY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Don't be jealous, but I happen to live in a fabulous place.

To my mind, it's a sanctuary: a haven perfectly appointed to comfort the body and nourish the soul. It forever provokes the wonder of others.

"Maybe you should, uh, put something up on your wall," one friend recently remarked.

"Are you sure you're not part of a terror cell?" asked another.

OK, so I lead a rich inner life. And a spare—*fine*, spartan—outer one. It's not that I'm opposed to decor. I just never think about it.

I'm a renter, so I'm never much invested in a place. I'm also a journalist, which means my salary goes to things like good books and mediocre happy hours.

And I'm just not inclined. So my fantastically located, reasonably priced one-bedroom rental remained, shall we say, unblemished: walls the color of sand, lights to make a dentist's office proud and not a nail hole in the joint.

There was, though, a swelling sense that at 29, I should live more like an adult. I could begin returning the favor to folks who've hosted me a thousand times, give or take.

But how to begin? These are questions faced by young renters and homeowners alike: How do you develop your own style? Where do you start? It seems like such a big undertaking and one in which you could easily err.

Local designer Karen Bengel agreed to do a few sessions of pro-bono advising. I gave her the full tour of my 500-square-foot apartment: bedroom, with bed and dresser; kitchen, with next to nothing; and all-purpose living and dining room, with a Craigslist-procured sofa set, two bookcases and a chairless dining table.

Then she probed: "So, tell me about yourself. " And I rambled.

I just don't know what I'm doing, so I ignore the whole thing and don't really love shopping, so I don't do it. And is everybody supposed to have a "style," like "modern" or "traditional," or whatever? Because I don't think I was assigned one. And I don't want to commit to anything, because who knows how long I'll be here? And maybe admitting you need help is the first step on the road to recovery?

"Ummmmm, yeah," she countered.

Bengel explained that every item we choose to have in our space should provoke a positive, sensual reaction. So you must be aware of what things have the power to elicit that innate response, she said. Filling up a place with furniture just for the sake of filling it up is as big a misstep as complete inaction.

She left me with two homework assignments: Think about what was pleasing in my home and what was uninspiring or worse. And consider how I use the apartment now and how I'd like to use it in the future.

The latter part was easy. I read, write, sleep, talk to people I love and find silence there. Eventually, it'd be nice to be able to seat two people at the table for brunch and not be embarrassed to have friends over.

On the other question, I found a disheartening view. I could count on one hand the objects that made me want to linger: a college photo of my mom; a print of a snow-covered bicycle that reminds me of home in Upstate New York; a Georges Seurat coffee table book; a fuchsia-colored orchid, which was flourishing under my tender cultivation (i.e., water every six weeks when prodded by aforementioned mom); and the morning scene from my kitchen window seat: birds on a fire escape, Catholic school kids in the parking lot below.

"What struck me was the realization of how little you really need," Bengel said at our next meeting. "It's not about the quantity of stuff you have; it's about the quality."

Huh. They never mention that on "Design on a Dime."

Based on what she thought was missing and what I wanted to do with the place, Bengel suggested I focus on four things: seating, lighting, color and shelving for books. My mission was to spend a day window-shopping: looking for chairs that would make my dining table functional, and a bench that would accommodate visitors.

The next day, an e-mail arrived with Bengel's suggestion for bookshelves: sleek-looking glass and steel contraptions that would seem to dissolve into any room. Price: $200.

Wait, $200 *per shelf*? It seemed we'd forgotten to discuss that tiny matter of a budget. I wrote back that I hoped to spend $600 or so for the whole project.

"I think it's fine to approach this with a $600 budget," she replied. "The lesson here is to get the nicest, most meaningful thing(s) out of whatever your budget may be. If you have to spend some time saving to take the next step, so be it."

Like an interior style swami, this one.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The writer and her blank canvas: a 500-square-foot, one-bedroom apartment in Washington. When it's time to decorate, it can be hard to know where to begin.

> These are questions faced by young renters and homeowners alike: How to begin? How do you develop your own style? Where do you start? It seems like such a big undertaking and one in which you could easily err.

That weekend I shopped a stretch of stores that Bengel had recommended and that were close to my apartment, along streets of independent furniture stores. Takeaway lesson: There's a lot not to like.

I mean that in a good way. Anything fancy, elaborate or modern-to-the-point-of-sterile didn't get a second glance. That made the things I *was* attracted to stand out even more.

There was one chair that looked entirely nondescript, but when I sat in it, I was completely taken by its comfort. The Bellini Chair is $110, but I could see having it around for a long time.

The bench, picked because it could offer more seating without taking up much space, proved trickier. I wanted one that wouldn't look as if it belonged at the front door of a Cracker Barrel. At Miss Pixie's Furnishings & Whatnot there was a cedar number that looked as if it had been sliced from a tree, polished up and given legs.

I bought nothing that day, but I kept thinking about the cedar bench. After finding more so-so options the next morning, I went back to Miss Pixie's to see if I was really into that bench or was just romanticizing it in retrospect.

It was still there, and I liked it even more than I remembered. But it had a new feature: a tag that read "Sold."

Enough heartache. I was moving on to something guaranteed to be in stock: paint.

"Color has a degree of identity to it," Bengel said at our next meeting. "It's like making your mark on something."

We'd already e-mailed about colors I'm drawn to (jewel tones, watery blues and grays), and she suggested I paint just a wall or two in each room to offset the ugly off-white. We settled on a violet for the bedroom and a pale blue that would wrap along the hallway, through the living room and into the kitchen.

By the second coat of Benjamin Moore French Violet, I was in love. Rich, warm and not too feminine, it made my bedroom feel lush and alluring. But the blue: Once it was up, I couldn't look at it. It somehow made the ugly off-white uglier.

Round two: a new slate-gray color that surrounds my sage couch and end table. It does what Bengel promised: makes the place a little more mine.

I've become a proselytizer of Bengel's design doctrine: Be thoughtful about your environment. Bring into it only things you're captivated by, which will continue to make you happy for a long time.

Truth is, this has so far been a Seinfeld episode of a home makeover. More than a month in, all I've got to show for the effort are 2.5 painted walls. But I'm on my way.

I did settle on those Bellini chairs, though they are back-ordered until fall. Bengel and I batted around lighting ideas, and she sent a link to a ceiling fixture that costs twice my rent and looks like it would require NASA technicians to install. A few nice lamps might be the way to go. And though I haven't encountered a bench as alluring as the one at Miss Pixie's, I feel confident that I'll know the right one when I find it.

That confidence might be the biggest gain. I'm unstuck now, and intrigued. This is still a work in progress: both the apartment and my sensibility.

But on the upside, we're way under budget.

Apartment Therapy: The doctor is in

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

For 15 years, Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan lived in a 265-square-foot one-bedroom apartment in New York City. Last winter, with his wife and 1-year-old in tow, he upgraded to a "really huge" two-bedroom. It's 725 square feet.

But a new small-space challenge is just another day at the design office for a guy who has made a living out of helping to transform the homes of clients (and now Web surfers), regardless of the size of their space. Gillingham-Ryan is the founder of Apartment Therapy, one of the first and most well-known design blogs (www.apartmenttherapy.com). He started the company in 2001 as a one-man interior design service and went online in 2004 to share resources with his clients. Today, the site is visited by 1.5 million viewers a month.

This spring, Gillingham-Ryan launched a D.C. Apartment Therapy blog. Other city-centric Apartment Therapy blogs feature Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Boston.

He has also written his second book, "Apartment Therapy Presents: Real Homes, Real People, Hundreds of Real Design Solutions" (Chronicle Books, $27.50), which brings together three years of the site's popular House Tours (virtual visits to readers' homes). The homes featured are owned and rented, are located across the country and vary in size (from Gillingham-Ryan's teeny rental to a 2,200-square-foot two-bedroom in Illinois).

We chatted with Gillingham-Ryan by telephone and e-mail from New York about design blogs, the new book, small-space living and what the future holds for Apartment Therapy.

Apartment Therapy founder Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan with his 18-month-old daughter, Ursula, in their New York City apartment.

Q: Are you surprised by the proliferation of design blogs?

A: No. Design in this country is on track to continue to grow. Just like the "gourmet effect" on food in the U.S. in the past 20 years, we're seeing the same things in interiors and design. I believe that in five years, men will not only be talking about getting chairs for the dining room table, but they will be talking about the Philippe Starck chair. America is getting more sophisticated, and concern and care for the home among younger people is very real.

One of the advantages blogs have is that they are free. And it's a community. People aren't going online to read what we write, but to connect with a community of interest.

Q: How does your book differ from other design books?

A: It differs from a conventional coffee-table book because it has resources, and the owners or renters have achieved the look themselves. Real-people solutions are more powerful than glossy interior-decorator solutions because you can relate to them. We're hoping to do one each year.

Q: What are the most important things to consider when living in a small space?

A: Clutter. Most clutter is generated the moment you walk through the door with your bag, cellphone, mail, shoes, coats, keys. To handle this, create a landing strip: When you come home, everything gets parked as close to the front door as possible. We take off our shoes outside the door. We have a little closet that we keep clear to hang coats and hang bags. Each of us has a shelf next to the door for our keys and phone. Mail gets sorted immediately, and junk mail gets put in the trash.

Using a landing strip also means when you're rushing out in the morning, you know where everything is. This is especially important when you have kids, because when they can get to something, they will grab it. Ideally, a front hall should have a side table, a wastepaper basket, a mirror, a light and coat hooks.

Spaces feel smaller when they are dark. Lighting is really important, and most people have homes that are underlit. There should be at least three points of light in every room. Mirrors are also great for reflecting light and allowing your eye to travel through the wall, making your space feel larger.

Color is important. Using a different color in every room allows you to walk through a space and feel transitions, both visually and emotionally. The shift in color can be as bold or as subtle as you prefer.

Sometimes the best solution in a small space is (ital) not (end ital) having furniture. Most furniture is made for larger spaces, so when it's used, precious extra inches are lost. If your budget allows, custom cabinetry is really nice. You could save money on furniture and instead invest in plywood and hire a handyman to build a bed or cabinets.

Q: What are common mistakes people make in small spaces?

A: The most common things I see are: (a) people trying to pack too much in and (b) not realizing how the sense of size can easily be manipulated with a few interior design tricks.

Many people consider their home small when they've moved from a bigger home or if they've added a partner or a child to the equation. In these cases, it never helps to try to fit in everything. Space needs to breathe: It needs to be open and airy in order to feel good and comfortable. Paring down and simplifying are

Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan's latest book.

essential elements in a move to a smaller space. Don't think of it as punishment; think of it as the creation of new opportunities.

People often look at small spaces and give up hope, but they shouldn't. The feeling of a space is created by how the eye moves around a room. If you can change the eye patterns, you can really make your space feel a lot bigger. The biggest tricks here are more lighting, indirect or below eye level when standing; light, bright walls and trim; a dark floor or a dark rug on a light floor to ground the space and provide a contrast to the light walls; having 10 percent of empty space in any closet, shelf, cabinet or room. This creates an airy and open feel that is essential in enlarging mental and visual boundaries.

Q: Do you have any tips for renters decorating temporary spaces?

A: Don't treat them as temporary! Too many people treat rentals as temporary and say they are waiting for the day they make their home. Start today. But if your landlord doesn't allow you to make many big changes, there's still a lot you can do. ... Start investing in good furniture that you love and will keep for a long time. These are building blocks. If you can, paint. It's the cheapest way to impact your home. The colors and style you choose are important parts of self-expression and establishing your own home. Keep everything clean, including the windows. Any home or apartment can be totally transformed by a deep cleaning.

Q: What was your biggest design mistake, and how did you deal with it?

A: The worst one was early on and a great lesson for me. I didn't measure the room I was working on closely enough and ordered a few pieces of furniture that ended up being way too big and looking ridiculous when they arrived. Luckily, I called the manufacturer immediately and was able to return the pieces. But ever since then I always measure very carefully before placing a furniture order.

Q: What's next for Apartment Therapy?

A: AT's mission is to help people at home, so we're expanding into more cities in the next two years (eight to 10 total). We just had the soft launch of AT in Boston and Washington, D.C., on our New York site, so we're covered in the Northeast. Next, we're looking at Seattle, Austin, Toronto and, possibly, Portland.

In addition, we'll be launching our "home" pages in 2008, which will be our readers' personal pages. They will be able to upload their own House Tours, write their own posts, organize their favorite posts and connect with one another much easier.

Sagging ceiling needs a lift

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
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Q: Last spring, my roof sprang a leak and water stained the ceiling in my daughter's second-floor bedroom. We fixed the leak and repainted the ceiling. However, now the new paint is cracked and, looking closer, I noticed a seam appearing along the ceiling and small, round depressions—screw holes, perhaps? What's going on?—Laura L., Wytheville, Va.

A: The ceiling is starting to sag downward, it appears. But all is not lost—because you're describing a wallboard ceiling, you can shore up the sagging fairly quickly.

First, make certain that no other water damage is occurring by checking the attic or crawlspace above for dampness over or near the bedroom ceiling. You also should be able to determine the extent of the damage from the old leak, and make sure no mold has taken hold on the underside of the wallboard. Always repair any leaks before fixing leak-related damage.

To repair the sag, prop up the wallboard with a T-brace. You can make this yourself—measure the distance from the ceiling to the floor, and cut a 2-by-4 board to that distance, plus one-half inch. Cut a second 2 by 4 to a length of 4 feet and attach it to one end of the long board to make a "T." Set the cross-piece (the top of the T) at the center of the sagging ceiling, lengthwise. Place the bottom of the brace atop a piece of plywood (to protect the floor). Slide the bottom of the brace forward until the brace is completely straight.

To secure the ceiling, place new wallboard screws along the popped seam (or joint), about 4 inches from the old screws. Be sure to screw them into the ceiling joists—the wooden beams above the ceiling. Wallboard's strength is in its paper skin, so the screws should depress the paper slightly without breaking through.

For sagging sections that aren't along the joint, place screws through them and into a joist (locate the joist by aligning the new screws with old fasteners).

Once the sagging is fixed, repair the surface by scraping away chipped paint and sanding rough areas. Place wallboard tape over the repaired seam, then smooth compound over the area and feather. Let dry, then repaint.

HOME TIP: Some wallboard patching jobs will show through no matter how much you try to disguise them. Consider using textured paint and some creative brushstrokes to create a stippled surface that will draw the eye away from patch areas.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Summer Squash With Herbs

Fresh mint, oregano and lemon accent tender summer squash.

PREP: 15 minutes
COOK: 15 minutes
MAKES: 6 accompaniment servings

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 small onion, finely chopped
3 small zucchini (about 6 ounces each), cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1/2-inch-thick pieces
3 small yellow summer squashes (about 6 ounces each), cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1/2-inch-thick pieces
1 garlic clove, crushed with garlic press
1 teaspoon chopped fresh oregano
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint
1 teaspoon grated fresh lemon peel
Fresh oregano sprigs for garnish

1. In nonstick 12-inch skillet, heat oil over medium heat until hot. Add onion and cook 5 to 7 minutes or until onion is golden, stirring frequently.

2. Increase heat to medium-high. Add zucchini, yellow squash, garlic, chopped oregano, salt, pepper and 1 tablespoon mint; cook 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender and golden, stirring often.

3. Transfer vegetables to bowl and toss with lemon peel and remaining 1 tablespoon mint. Garnish with oregano sprigs.

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The Good Life

Camp: Helping kids (and parents) survive sleep-away separation anxiety

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

As we bumped down the Vermont road toward Camp Wachusett, my eyes welled up as we came closer to dropping off my 9-year-old son at his first sleep-away camp. I kept my sunglasses on as my husband and I unpacked stacks of T-shirts and new socks, all with name labels.

We made up the thin cot mattress with sheets and took a photo of our only child sitting there. We pointed out the pre-addressed stationery he would hopefully drop in the mail regaling us with happy tales of hikes and campfires.

That was 1999. He made it through the two-week session, and so did we, despite no cellphone calls, e-mails or text messages. Although some aspects of woodsy life never change (archery and musty bunks), a survival guide for Summer Camp 2008 must include a primer about communications with your little cabin- or tent-dweller. You won't see a cellphone, laptop or iPhone on most camp packing lists.

More than 6 million U.S. kids will head to 6,000 sleep-away camps this summer, according to the National Camp Association, and many of the 5 to 18 year olds leave in the next two weeks. Despite the sour economy, enrollments aren't much different from the past few years, association executives say, because parents are loath to cut this tradition from their kids' lives. (And it provides 24/7 summer vacation child care.)

However, at prices from $400 to $1,500 a week, there is a trend to shorter stays, according to Jeff Solomon, NCA's executive director. Escalating gas prices are forcing some families to scout camps closer to home; others are requesting payment plans. To stay competitive, camps have added fencing, marine biology and "American Idol"-style singing; others have Olympic swimmers or soccer coaches.

At the same time, most camps are striving to keep the wilderness experience that is part of their history. "The very same kids who come to camp looking for new activities want to make sure that the same traditions, such as songs and campfires, are preserved," says Peg Smith, chief executive of the American Camp Association.

Smith says camp directors spend a lot of time on the care and feeding of parents, many of whom have been an integral part of almost everything in their kids' lives. "Today's camps deal more with parents missing their kids than vice versa," she says. Some camps offer secure Web sites where photos of campers are posted every day or so for parents to see proof that their kid is having a blast water-skiing.

Denise Viau, camping services manager for the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, which operates camps in Virginia and Maryland, encourages parents to talk with their child about the experience beforehand. There is a plan for moms and dads who want a little bit more feedback. "If parents are concerned, they can call us to check on their campers. We will observe them in the woods and come back and give them a comprehensive report," Viau says. "We tell parents it's usually a big mistake to talk to their daughters. The moment she hears your voice, she will burst into tears."

A bunk-bed organizer from the Container Store.
THE WASHINGTON POST

Kingsley Pines, a coed camp in Maine, sends new families a DVD/CD set called "The Secret Ingredients of Summer Camp Success" by child psychologist Christopher Thurber. The DVD is for the family to watch before camp; the CD is for parents to listen to on their way home after they drop kids off.

Leslie Hartz of Columbia, Md., is sending her son and daughter to Kingsley Pines for the first time. "We have told the kids that the first day or two you will feel awkward, but you will be so busy that you will forget us," says Hartz, who has already watched the DVD.

The number of camps that offer campers e-mail has grown from 20 percent three years ago to more than 80 percent today, Solomon says. Instead of a letter at mail call, a camper might get an e-mail printout. A few camps are letting campers respond using a monitored computer.

"I'm sticking with the U.S. mail," says Jim Weiss, owner of Camp Wachusett, a 105-year-old boys' camp on a lake in rural Vermont. "At camp, kids need to learn to be independent, make decisions on their own and learn to live with those decisions. Not everything is going to be perfect, but this will help them be more mature in handling the ups and downs of normal everyday living."

Duncan Barger, an owner and director of Camp Shohola for boys in the Pennsylvania Poconos, has one major piece of advice for parents about homesickness: "Do not promise before camp that if your child doesn't like it, they can come home." It's important, he said, that children be given time to get used to the surroundings.

Some parents are ready to turn off their cellphones.

"I'm so happy camp hasn't changed," says Terri Freeman of Columbia, Md., who is sending her 9-year-old daughter, Carmen, to Camp May Flather, a Girl Scout camp near Harrisonburg, Va. "Camp isn't supposed to be about electronics and modern conveniences. It's supposed to be about dirt and grime and swimming and coming back with lots of mosquito bites."

My son, 18, is now a counselor at Camp Wachusett. He recently penned an essay about camp for his college applications, titled "Nico Dodd Unplugged."

He wrote, "The absence of rapid communication is an attraction that keeps me coming back. Having real relationships with others requires more than opposable thumbs. Doing a job, competing in a friendly sports game or hiking up a mountain with someone lets people actually know each other."

I am desperate for a CD that will make us feel better in August after we drop him off at college.

Getting ready for camp

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

We polled veteran campers and seasoned camp directors for ideas on what to bring and what not to bring to camp. First, find your camp's packing list, policies and list of no-nos. But beyond flashlights, extra batteries and bug spray, there are lots of ideas to help make camp more comfortable and fun.

THINGS TO TAKE TO CAMP:

Family or pet photos

Pre-addressed and stamped postcards to send home

An extra pair of glasses, if worn

A favorite blanket

A battery-operated lantern that can light up a room

A packable folding chair such as one from Crazycreek.com

THINGS TO LEAVE AT HOME:

New sneakers (unless you don't care if they get trashed)

Fine jewelry

Good watch (substitute an inexpensive, water-resistant style)

Expensive cameras (a disposable is best)

Anything irreplaceable

Toiletries in glass bottles (unbreakables only)

Food

Don't bring too many things from your bedroom; it will remind you of home and could trigger homesickness

PACKING TIPS:

Some camps suggest trunks, but many moms say duffel bags are the way to go because they are easier to store under beds.

Pack using the camp's own list, checking off items as you put them in the trunk or duffel. Make a copy of the list for your child and include it in their bag so they will know what they came with and hopefully return home with the same things.

Send old towels. They are likely to be dragged through the mud and left in the rain.

We polled veteran campers and seasoned camp directors for ideas on what to bring and what not to bring to camp. A good camp companion: a portable folding chair from Crazycreek.com.
THE WASHINGTON POST.

ON THE NET

Summercamp.org: Find sleep-away camps for kids and practical information.

Campparents.org: Family resource center for how to choose a camp. Advice from pros.

Main-camp.com: Hard-to-find products, such as self-inking clothing stampers; iron-on and sew-on name tapes; cot-size sheets and mattress pads.

Cloz.com: Cool camp wear, woodsy stationery and small bunk rugs shaped like ladybugs or soccer balls. Camp logo luggage tags.

Funcampstuff.com: Bunk organizers and autograph pillowcases, plus advice for moms.

Containerstore.com: Fast-drying microfiber towels, bunk-bed shelves and mesh laundry bags.

CampSpirit.com: Psychologist Christopher Thurber on kids and camp, and info on his DVD and book.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

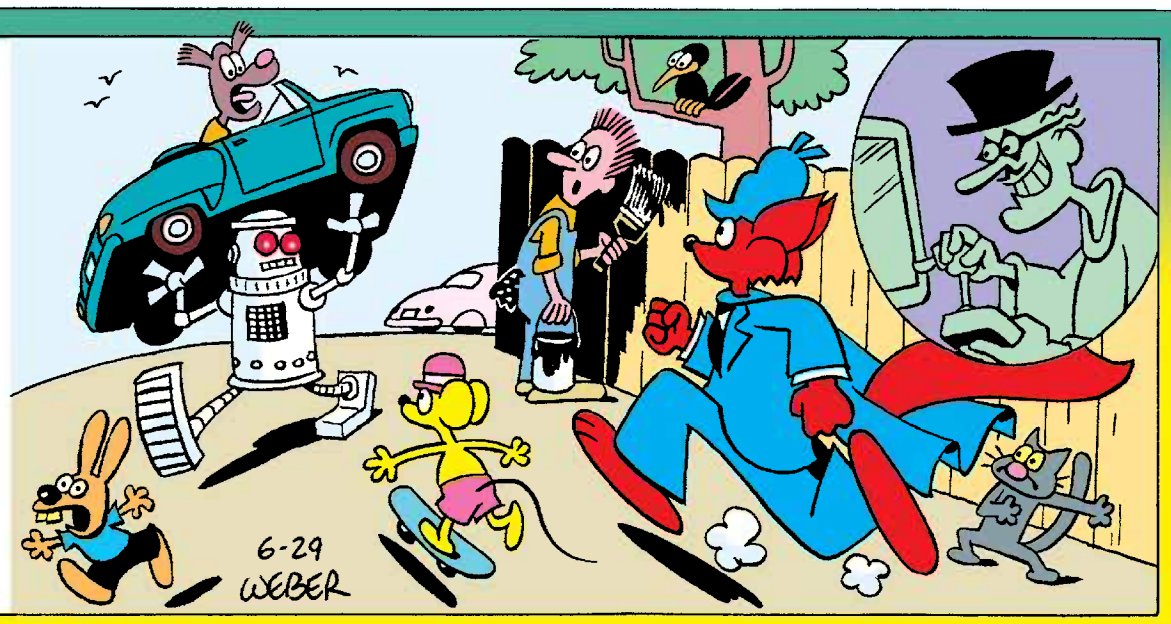
Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

Which scene is slightly different from the other two?

Answer -- Number two.

Count Weirdly built a robot to frighten citizens. The robot's eyes send live video to Weirdly's monitor, enabling him to guide the roaming robot's actions. What will Slylock Fox do to impair the rampaging robot?

Solution -- Slylock will splash black paint over the robot's eyes to eliminate Weirdly's ability to guide the metal monster.



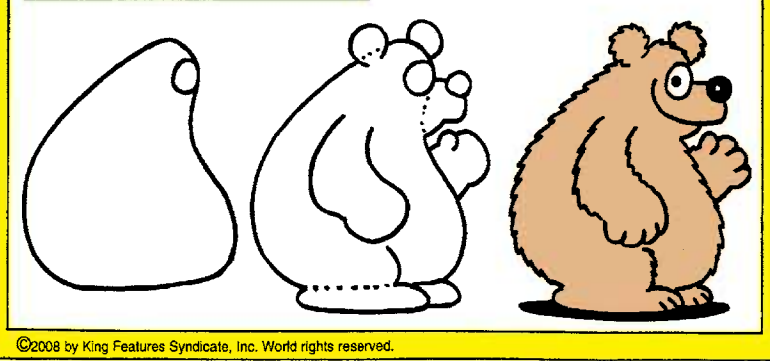
Find six differences between these panels.

www.kidcartoonists.com

Answer -- Shoe, popcorn, straw, box top, tooth and arm.

New! The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4,** P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a bear



YOUR DRAWING

Today's artist is Dominic Viola, age 8, of Santa Barbara, CA

Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

The largest movie theater in the world is located in ...

a) Tokyo
b) New York
c) London
d) Calabasas

Answer -- The largest movie theater in the world, Radio City Music Hall in New York City, opened in December 1932.

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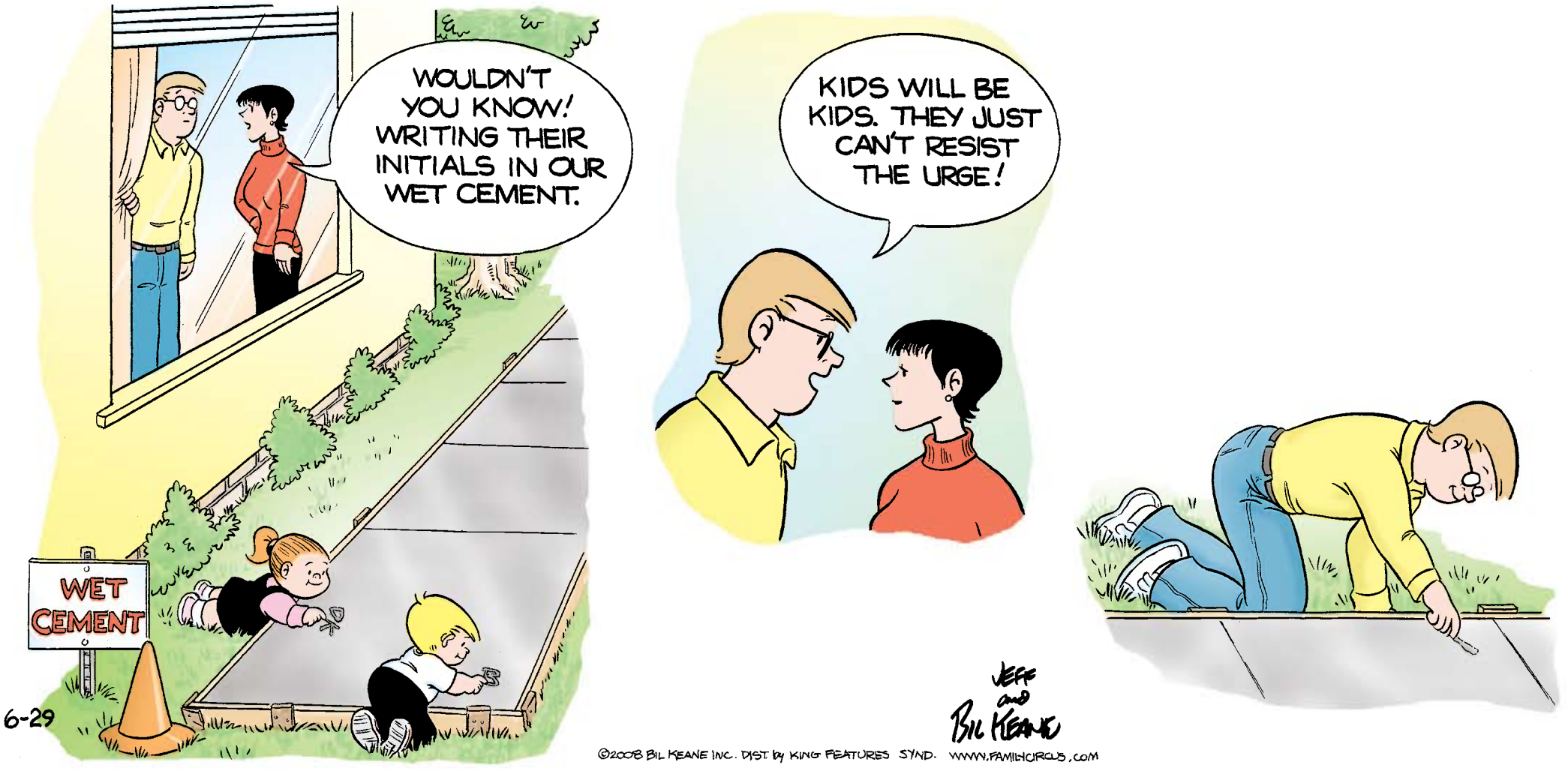
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


WOULDN'T YOU KNOW! WRITING THEIR INITIALS IN OUR WET CEMENT.
KIDS WILL BE KIDS. THEY JUST CAN'T RESIST THE URGE!
WET CEMENT
6-29
JEFF and BIL KEANE

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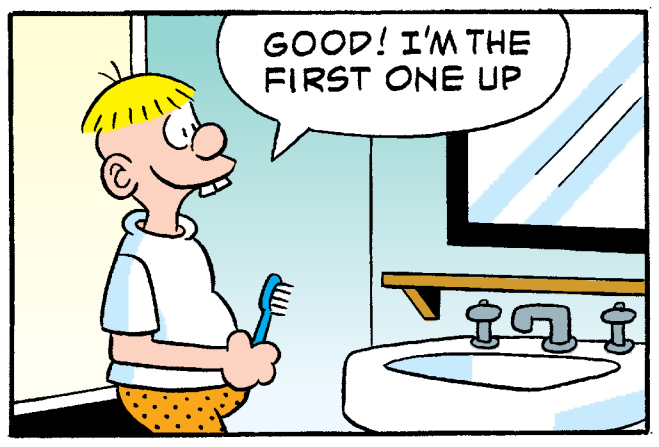
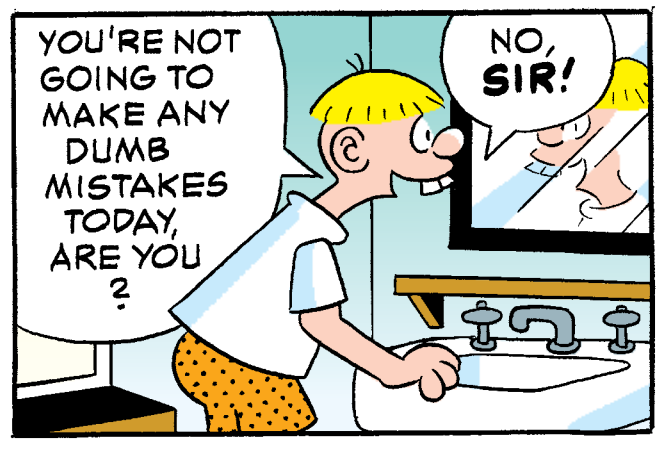
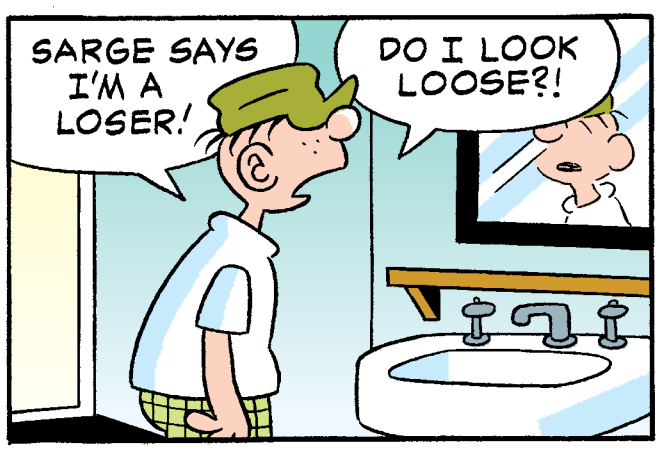
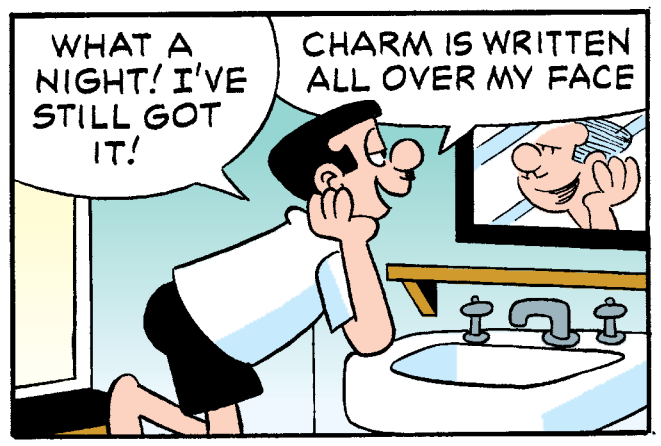
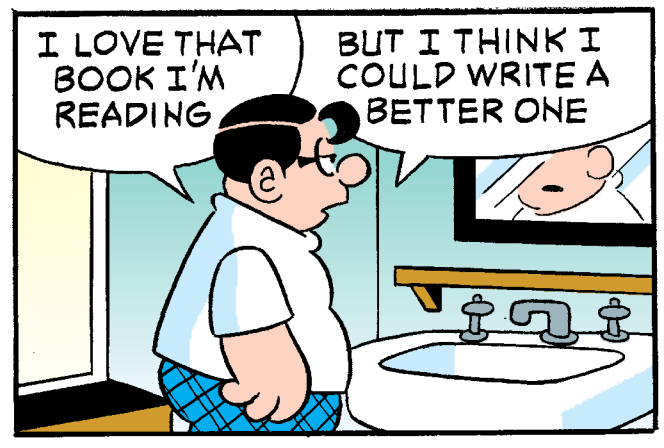
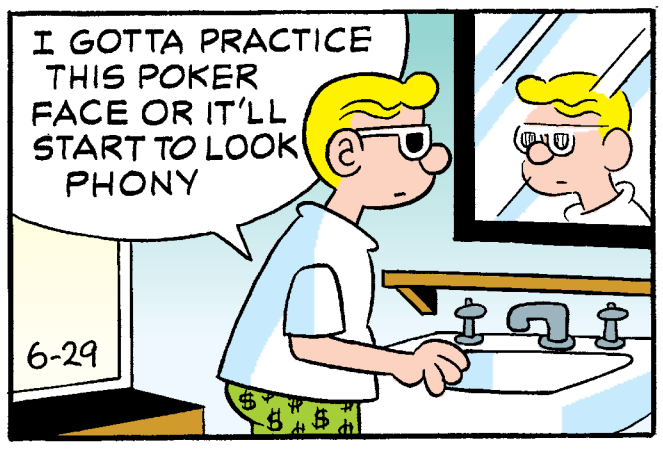




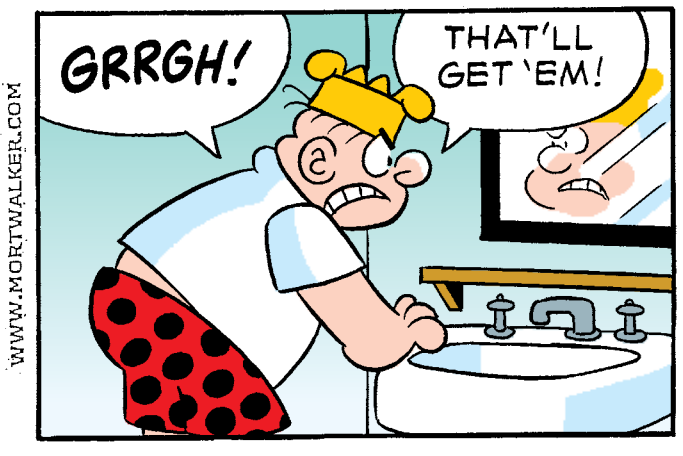








WWW.MORTWALKER.COM



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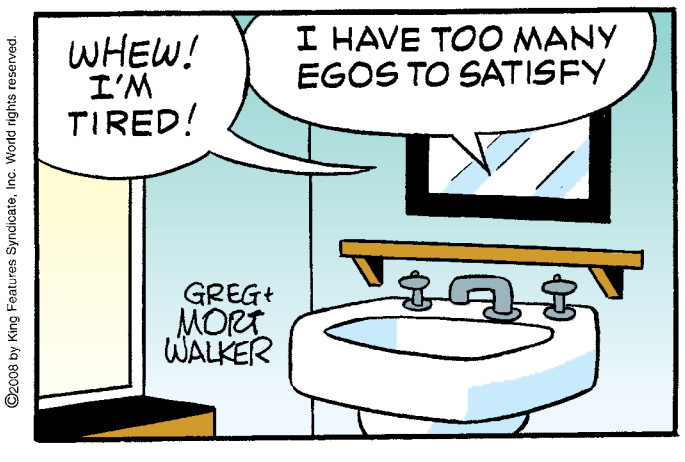
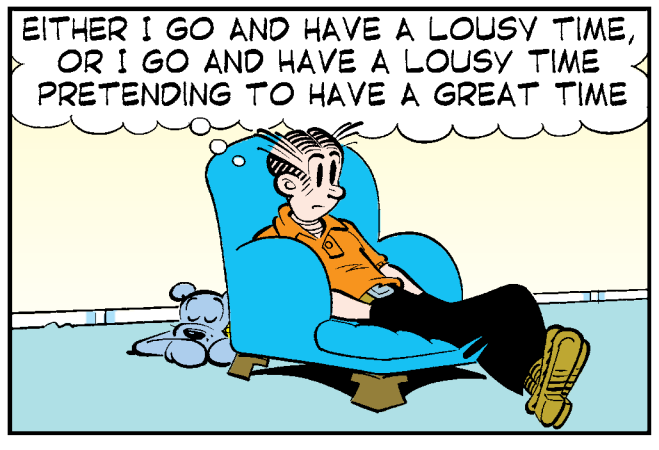
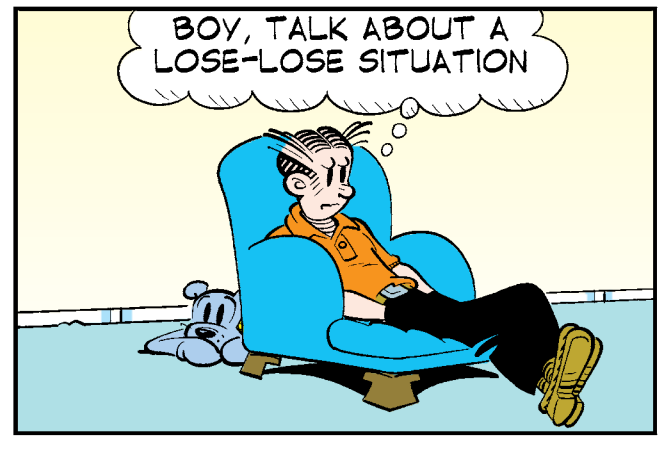
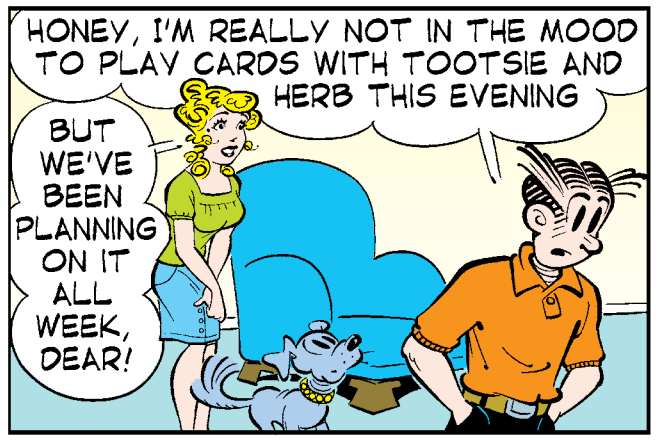


BLONDIE

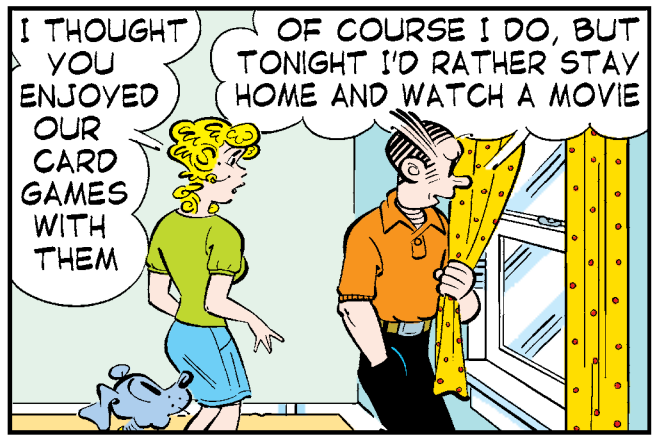
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

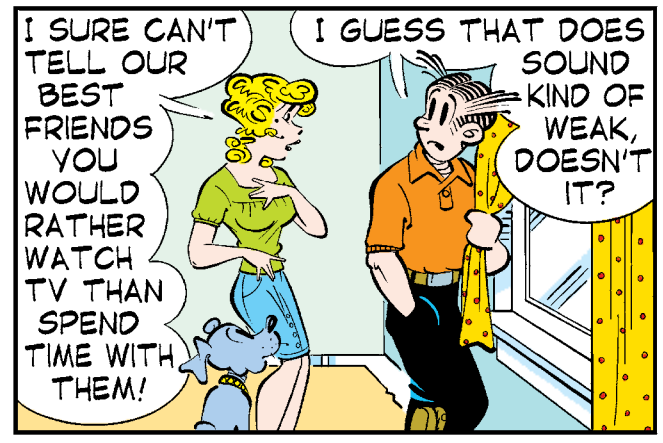


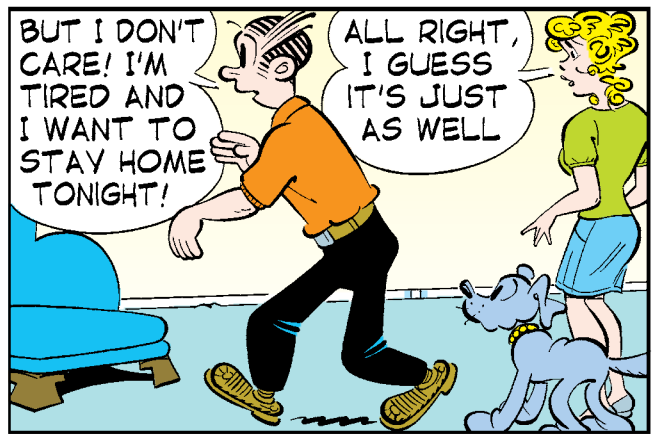




www.blondie.com




I SURE CAN'T TELL OUR BEST FRIENDS YOU WOULD RATHER WATCH TV THAN SPEND TIME WITH THEM!
I GUESS THAT DOES SOUND KIND OF WEAK, DOESN'T IT?



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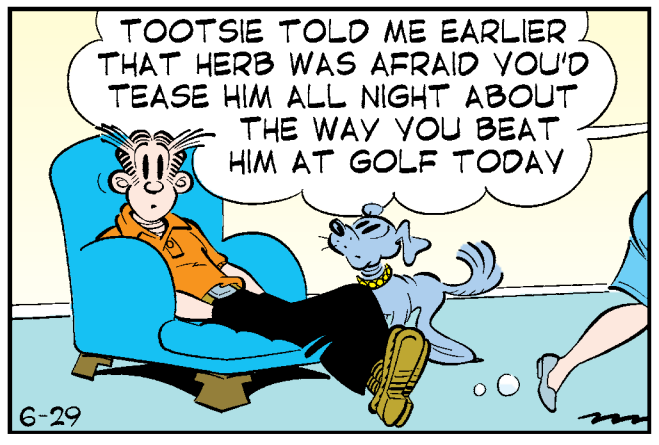
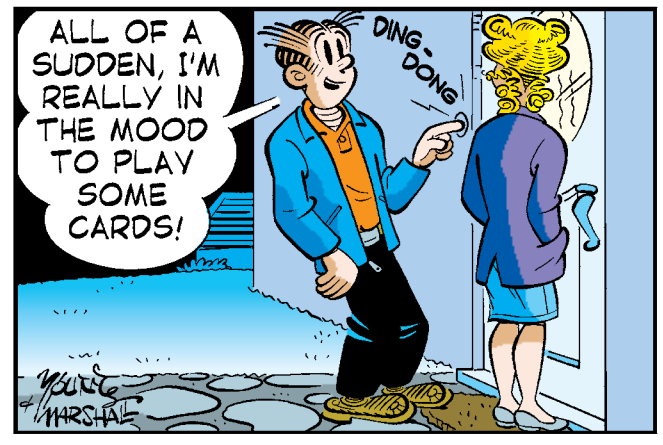
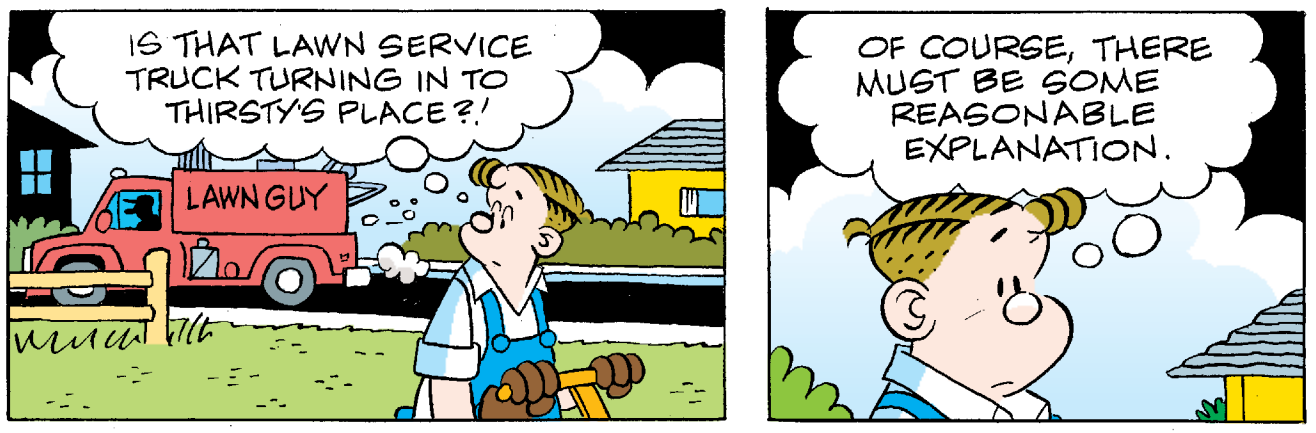
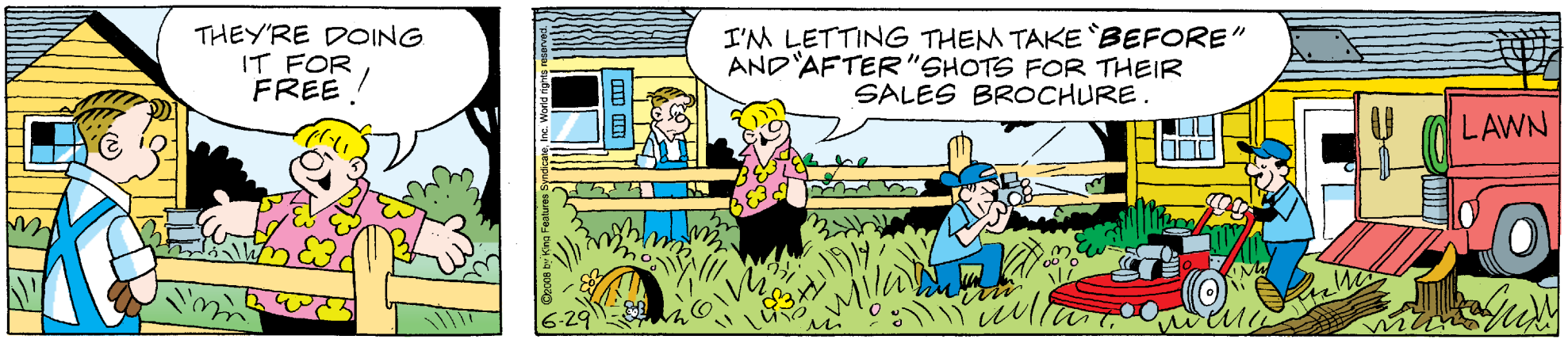




Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER


IS THAT LAWN SERVICE TRUCK TURNING IN TO THIRSTY'S PLACE?!
LAWN GUY
OF COURSE, THERE MUST BE SOME REASONABLE EXPLANATION.
WE'LL HAVE THIS LOOKING LIKE YOUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR'S YARD IN NO TIME.
LAWN
LAWN GUY
CHANCE BROWNE
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FINALLY HIRED A LAWN SERVICE.


THEY'RE DOING IT FOR FREE!
I'M LETTING THEM TAKE "BEFORE" AND "AFTER" SHOTS FOR THEIR SALES BROCHURE.
LAWN
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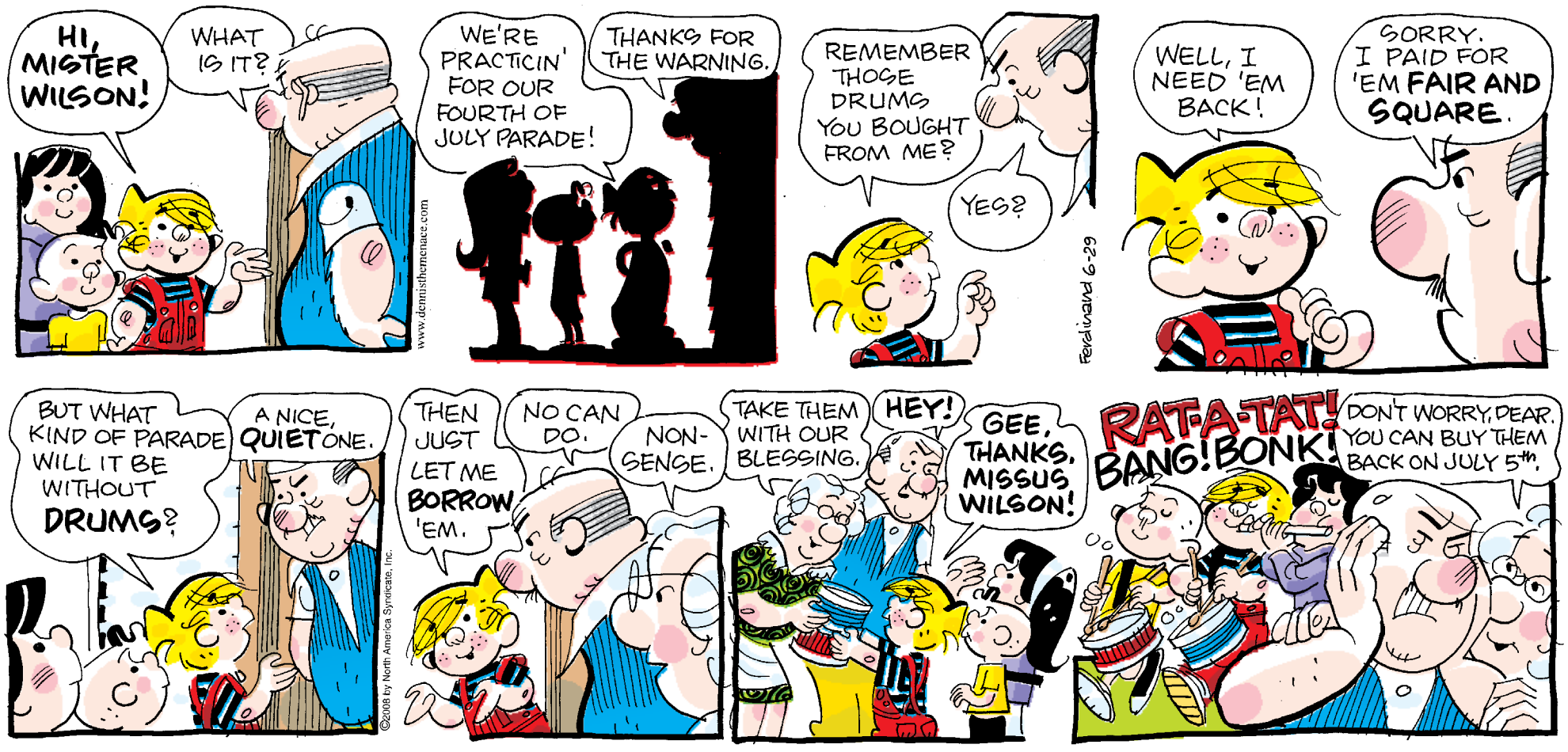
6-29

Hank Ketcham's Dennis the Menace

Drumming Up Business


HI, MISTER WILSON!
WHAT IS IT?
WE'RE PRACTICIN' FOR OUR FOURTH OF JULY PARADE!
THANKS FOR THE WARNING.
www.dennisthemenace.com
REMEMBER THOSE DRUMS YOU BOUGHT FROM ME?
YES?
Ferdinand 6-29
WELL, I NEED 'EM BACK!
SORRY. I PAID FOR 'EM FAIR AND SQUARE.
BUT WHAT KIND OF PARADE WILL IT BE WITHOUT DRUMS?
A NICE, QUIET ONE.
©2008 by North America Syndicate, Inc.
THEN JUST LET ME BORROW 'EM.
NO CAN DO.
NON-SENSE.
TAKE THEM WITH OUR BLESSING.
HEY!
GEE, THANKS, MISSUS WILSON!
RAT-A-TAT! BANG! BONK!
DON'T WORRY, DEAR. YOU CAN BUY THEM BACK ON JULY 5th.

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
THE FLOOR OF THIS BACK SEAT IS A DISASTER!
CRUMBLED CHEERIOS...
...CRUSHED NUTS...
...STALE RAISINS...TEETHING BISCUIT CRUMBS...SUNFLOWER SEEDS...
CAN YOU HOLD THIS?
SURE.
WHERE'D WE GET THE TRAIL MIX?
www.babyblues.com
©2008 BABY BLUES PARTNERSHIP DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
6-29 KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Count to 10 if you must, but don't lose your temper, despite that person's (you know who!) efforts to goad you into reacting. Your restraint will pay off in a big way.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This week finds you in a sociable mood, ready and eager to enjoy the company of family and friends. It's also a good time to seek out and renew old friendships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Patience is called for as you await a decision about that project you're eager to launch. Meanwhile, try to set aside more time to share with that special person in your life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid becoming involved in a workplace dispute early in the week by insisting both sides submit their stands to a neutral arbitrator. Things begin to cool off by Thursday.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It promises to be a busy but productive week for the Big Cat. The pace slows by Friday, allowing you to catch up on matters you put aside but that now need your attention.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A suddenly disruptive family situation is best handled with a cool, calm and collected response. Wait until things settle to let off all that pent-up emotional steam.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your practical side dominates the week as you reassess your finances to make some sensible adjustments in what you plan to spend and what you expect to save.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An unexpected meeting with a former colleague opens some interesting possibilities. But you need to press for full disclosure before making a decision.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A recent flurry of activity eases by midweek, giving you time to readjust your disrupted schedule and make new plans for a weekend getaway.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're usually the one who gives advice. But now it's time to open yourself up to counsel from friends who have your best interests at heart.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might find resistance to your call for a full inquiry into a workplace problem. But by week's end even the most rigid naysayers begin to come around.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A recurring problem surfaces once again. Maybe it's time you used your creative talents to help you find a new approach to resolving it once and for all.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are guided in what you do both by your intelligence and your emotions. An acting career would suit you quite well.

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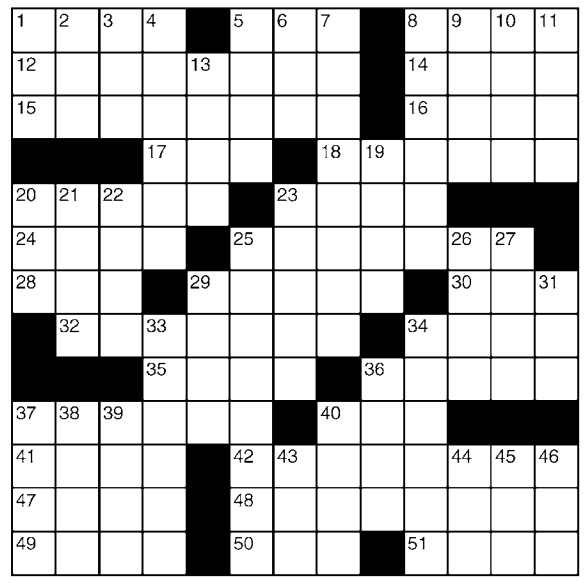
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Star-spangled banner
5 Baseball headgear
8 Sunrise
12 Suave
14 Arthur of tennis
15 Capital of South Australia
16 Comedian Caroline
17 $5 bill
18 Twain lad
20 Flat
23 Big rig
24 Winged
25 Voiced phonemes
28 Omega preceder
29 Capital of Western Australia
30 Owns
32 Stores grain
34 Minimal change
35 Holler
36 Allen or Harrelson
37 Treeless plain
40 Pitch
41 Unsigned (Abbr.)
42 Capital of Queensland
47 Donate
48 Certain Protestant
49 Remain
50 Id counterpart
51 Bestow temporarily

DOWN
1 Consumer watchdog org.
2 Started
3 34-Across face
4 Tiger Woods, e.g.
5 Abel's slayer
6 Help
7 Santa's sackload
8 Capital of the Northern Territory
9 Wan
10 Roller-coaster cry
11 Approach
13 Perform perfectly
19 Asian nursemaid
20 Once around the track
21 Otherwise
22 Conceited
23 Soap actress Louise
25 Apt to be bought
26 Vincent van Gogh's brother
27 Beach stuff
29 Wharf
31 Pigpen
33 Capital of New South Wales
34 Supportive projection in a wall
36 Lave
37 Labels
38 One
39 — Scotia
40 Salsa legend Puente
43 Carpet
44 Exist
45 A Bobbsey twin
46 Conclusion

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top ten

Most Collectible Authors

1. Stephen King
2. J.K. Rowling
3. J.R.R. Tolkien
4. William Shakespeare
5. Charles Darwin
6. Ernest Hemingway
7. Cormac McCarthy
8. F. Scott Fitzgerald
9. Winston Churchill
10. C.S. Lewis

Source: AbeBooks.com

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

F	L	A	G	■	C	A	P	■	D	A	W	N
D	E	B	O	N	A	I	R	■	A	S	H	E
A	D	E	L	A	I	D	E	■	R	H	E	A
■	■	■	F	I	N	■	S	A	W	Y	E	R
L	E	V	E	L	■	S	E	M	I	■	■	■
A	L	A	R	■	S	O	N	A	N	T	S	■
P	S	I	■	P	E	R	T	H	■	H	A	S
■	E	N	S	I	L	E	S	■	C	E	N	T
■	■	■	Y	E	L	L	■	W	O	O	D	Y
T	U	N	D	R	A	■	T	A	R	■	■	■
A	N	O	N	■	B	R	I	S	B	A	N	E
G	I	V	E	■	L	U	T	H	E	R	A	N
S	T	A	Y	■	E	G	O	■	L	E	N	D

United States

Obama, Clinton appeal for Democratic unity

UNITY, N.H. (AP)—Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton sought Friday to turn the page on their bitter, history-making fight for the Democratic presidential nomination, declaring the next chapter is about beating Republican John McCain.

Choosing a small New Hampshire community aptly named Unity for their first joint appearance since the campaign ended, Obama and Clinton stood on a platform before thousands of cheering, shouting supporters and took turns praising each other and urging party solidarity. She called the nominee-in-waiting a standup guy and he declared: "She rocks. She rocks."

They came together in this hamlet where each won 107 votes in January's primary. Body language rivaled campaign rhetoric as attention-getter of the day. And a pair rendered distant by a marathon campaign acted like teammates, alternately exhorting the rank-and-file to put any recriminations behind them.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., applaud together at a campaign event in Unity, N.H. Friday, June 27, 2008, their first joint public appearance since the divisive Democratic primary race ended.

Clinton noted that they had stood "toe to toe" against each other in a primary season fight that began almost two years ago and declared the time has come to "stand shoulder to shoulder" against the GOP. They seemed equally determined to regain a White House that their party hasn't seen since her husband, President Clinton, left at the start of 2001.

"To anyone who voted for me and is now considering not voting or voting for Sen. (John) McCain, I strongly urge you to reconsider," said Clinton, beseeching her supporters to join with Obama's "to create an unstoppable force for change we can all believe in."

In turn, Obama praised both Clinton and her husband as allies and pillars of the Democratic Party.

"We need them. We need them badly," Obama said.

Mars mission finds soil surprise

By MARC KAUFMAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Early results from the first ever "wet" chemical analysis of the surface soil of Mars show the planet harbors many of the nutrients needed for life and none of the acidity that some feared would make life highly unlikely.

"There's nothing about it that would preclude life. In fact, it seems very friendly," said mission scientist Samuel Kounaves of Tufts University. "We were flabbergasted."

Kounaves said the soil was similar to what people would find in their backyards on Earth and that, if organic material was added, "you could probably grow asparagus but not strawberries."

Carbon-based organic material, however, has not been found and may be impossible to detect with the equipment now on Mars. The Viking missions to Mars in the 1970s also found but failed to find evidence of carbon.

The new findings come from the suite of chemistry labs on the Phoenix lander that has been digging up soil from the northern polar area of Mars since it touched down late last month.

In the wet lab experiments—the first ever conducted beyond Earth—the lander's analyzers moisten the soil samples and then superheat them to the point that the component elements can be analyzed, Kounaves said. The researchers hope to do similar tests on subsurface ice samples the Phoenix has yet to collect.

Burrowing muskrat causes levee to fail in Missouri

WINFIELD, Mo. (AP)—A heroic effort by hundreds of townspeople, volunteers and National Guardsmen to hold back the Mississippi River failed Friday—undone by a burrowing muskrat.

The furry rodent dug a hole through the earthen levee in this eastern Missouri community, allowing water to penetrate the floodwall, which failed shortly before dawn.

"It's so disappointing," said Linda Wilmesherr as she peered through binoculars at water pouring through a gap that appeared to be 30 feet wide. "With all the guns in this county, couldn't we kill a muskrat?"

But within hours, defiant residents were mounting a new defense—a quickly constructed 4-foot-tall sandbag levee to protect 100 homes in the floodwaters' path.

"We're not quitting—the Army doesn't quit," said National Guard Col. Michele Melton. "That's why we're here—to try and save these people."

Many of the 720 residents of Winfield and people from nearby communities have spent the last several days helping the National Guard patch one trouble spot after another.

Wilmesherr operates a horseback riding school and suspended her business so she and her employees could bring in equipment and help save the levee.

In the end, their efforts were undone by an animal weighing no more than 5 pounds.

AP

An unidentified person looks at a hackberry tree, thought to have been among the largest in the state, which was snapped by high winds.

Plains storms kill two teens in Iowa

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) -- Severe storms with strong winds swept through the Plains on Friday, forcing swimmers practicing for U.S. Olympic trials in Omaha to flee pools and run for cover, killing two teenagers in Iowa, and knocking out power to thousands.

Officials at the Qwest Center near downtown Omaha closed the building to examine it after superstar swimmer Michael Phelps and hundreds of other athletes were herded into hallways because of a tornado warning.

Water poured into the building, down arena steps and onto the deck of the competition pool during the storm. The storm's winds may have reached 100 mph in some areas, said meteorologist Bryon Miller.

An eight-day meet to decide the U.S. Olympic swimming team opens Sunday. Al Berndt, assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, said the damage appeared to be reparable and probably wouldn't halt the swim trials.

Across the Missouri River in Council Bluffs, Iowa, two 18-year-old men died when a tree fell on the car they were in while they were at a friend's house, said Police Sgt. Jason Bailey. Authorities used a backhoe to free a 15-year-old girl trapped in the back seat.

ACROSS THE NATION

Drunken driver gets 43 years for killing mom, kids

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—A Michigan man was sentenced to 43 years in prison Friday for driving the wrong way on an interstate and slamming his pickup truck into a minivan, killing a Maryland mother and four children who were returning home from a Christmas trip. Michael Gagnon of Adrian, Mich., had a blood-alcohol level more than twice the legal limit and marijuana in his system, authorities said. Gagnon, 24, had pleaded no contest to five counts of aggravated vehicular homicide and two counts of aggravated vehicular assault. He won't be eligible for release until he reaches his mid-60s.

Scruggs gets 5 years in prison in bribery scheme

OXFORD, Miss. (AP)—Richard "Dickie" Scruggs, who became one of the wealthiest civil lawsuit attorneys in the country by taking on tobacco, asbestos and insurance companies, was sentenced Friday to five years in prison for conspiring to bribe a judge. Scruggs, 62, nearly fainted as the judge scolded him for his conduct, and people in the courtroom gasped as he swayed side to side. He had to be seated for a time before the sentence was read, but later stood back up. U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. called Scruggs' conduct "reprehensible" and fined him $250,000. Scruggs will also lose his law license.

2nd NY millionaire gets prison in slavery case

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP)—A millionaire convicted of helping his wife keep two Indonesian housekeepers as virtual slaves was sentenced Friday to more than three years in prison, ending a trial that shed light on the often little-seen exploitation and abuse of domestic workers. International perfume maker Mahender Sabhnani, 51, was sentenced to 3 1/3 years and fined $12,500. He was convicted in December on a 12-count federal indictment that included forced labor, conspiracy, involuntary servitude and harboring aliens. The victims testified that they were beaten with brooms and umbrellas, slashed with knives, and forced to climb stairs and take cold showers for misdeeds that included sleeping late or stealing food from the trash because they were poorly fed.

Asia

N. Korea destroys nuclear reactor tower

YONGBYON, North Korea (AP)—The gray cooling tower crumbled behind billowing dust clouds in seconds Friday, reducing the structure at North Korea's nuclear reactor into a pile of rubble. It was a choreographed show by the communist regime meant to affirm an intention to stop making atomic bombs.

From a distance, smiling diplomats from the United States and other nations snapped photos of the blast that destroyed part of the heart of the North's nuclear weapons program.

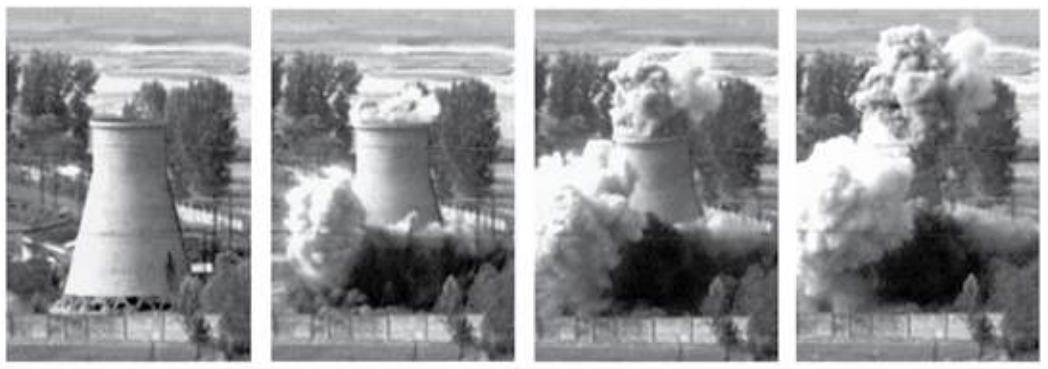
"As you all saw, the cooling tower is no longer there," said Sung Kim, the U.S. State Department's top expert on the Koreas who attended the demolition. "This is a very important step in the disablement process, and I think it puts us in a good position to move into the next phase."

The 60-foot-tall cooling tower at the Yongbyon nuclear center had been the most visible symbol of the North's nuclear program and a focus for U.S. satellite surveillance. Steam spewing from the tower meant that the North's main nuclear reactor was operating to make plutonium.

Just before detonation, red warning flares were fired into the clear sky. At 5:10 p.m. (4:10 a.m. EDT), an explosion at the base of the tower sent it collapsing into a cloud of dust and smoke that blew over grassy fields along a small river.

After the explosion, the site was littered by broken columns of reinforced concrete and other shattered pieces of the tower shown in video of the site by international video news agency Associated Press Television News.

The tower's destruction was not mentioned by the North's media or shown on state TV broadcasts.



AP

This four picture combination made up of video frame grabs taken from AP Television News shows the demolition of the 60-foot-tall cooling tower at its main reactor complex in Yongbyon North Korea Friday June 27, 2008.

Thai prime minister survives no-confidence vote

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's prime minister and seven of his Cabinet ministers held off a parliamentary challenge Friday as street protesters demanded the coalition government's resignation.

Critics accuse Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's government of mismanaging the ailing Thai economy, failing to defend the country's revered monarchy and of being a proxy for ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Samak has denied the allegations.

The opposition's motion against Samak was rejected Friday in the 470-member lower house of Parliament by a vote of 280-162, with the rest of the lawmakers abstaining or absent. The lawmakers rejected no-confidence motions against the other Cabinet members by similar margins.

The results were largely expected because Samak's six-party coalition, led by his People's Power Party, controls two-thirds of the seats in the lower house.

But several politicians thought that some of the ministers performed poorly in the three-day debate and should be replaced.

"Some ministers should be replaced due to problems with their qualifications," said Abhisit Vejjajiva, leader of the opposition Democrat Party.

Coalition service member is killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—One member of the U.S.-led military coalition in Afghanistan has been killed and five more wounded in the country's increasingly turbulent west, the military said Friday.

Two Afghan army soldiers also were wounded in the "engagement" Thursday during a reconnaissance patrol in the Gulistan district of Farah province, a coalition statement said.

Insurgency-related violence has killed more than 2,000 people in Afghanistan this year, according to an AP tally. Most were militants, though the total also includes 115 foreign troops.

Also on Thursday, a roadside bomb killed three coalition troops and an Afghan interpreter south of the capital.

A day later, the military was still trying to identify the remains of the victims of the attack, in which one vehicle was severely damaged and burned. The coalition said three bodies were found at the site and the other in a nearby field.

Fighting between Islamic militants and security forces is intensifying across the southern half of Afghanistan, from the mountains bordering Pakistan to the deserts which straddle its frontier with Iran.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Crowd watches Pakistan militants kill 2 Afghans

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—A gang of Pakistani militants executed two Afghan prisoners in front of thousands of cheering supporters Friday, beheading one man and shooting the other after accusing them of aiding a U.S. missile strike. At least 5,000 people gathered to watch the executions. Waliur Rehman, a local Taliban commander, told the crowd that the two men had confessed to aiding in the strike on a house in the border town of Damadola that killed 14 people last month. Also Friday, a top U.N. official expressed fears that Pakistan's peace deals with militants were sparking a wave of similar abuses.

'Hanoi Hilton' jailer says he'd vote for McCain

HAIPHONG, Vietnam (AP)—John McCain has an unusual endorsement—from the Vietnamese jailer who says he held him captive for about five years as a POW and now considers him a friend. "If I were an American voter, I would vote for Mr. John McCain," Tran Trong Duyet said Friday, sitting in his living room in the northern city of Haiphong, surrounded by black-and-white photos of a much younger version of himself and former Vietnam War prisoners. At the same time, he denies prisoners of war were tortured.

World

Baghdad's walls keep the peace but feel like prison

BAGHDAD (AP)—Baghdad hasn't been this quiet in years. But the respite from bloodshed comes at a high price.

Up to 20 feet high in some sections.

Rows after rows of barrier walls divide the city into smaller and smaller areas that protect people from bombings, sniper fire and kidnappings. They also lead to gridlock, rising prices for food and homes, and complaints about living in what feels like a prison.

Baghdad's walls are everywhere. They have turned a riverside capital of leafy neighborhoods and palm-lined boulevards into a city of shadows that separate Sunnis from Shiites.

The walls block access to schools, mosques, churches, hotels, homes, markets and even entire neighborhoods—almost anything that could be attacked. For many Iraqis, they have become the iconic symbol of the war.

"Maybe one day they will remove it," said Kareem Mustapha, a 26-year-old Sadr City resident who lives a five-minute walk from a wall built this spring in the large Shiite district.

"I don't know when, but it is not soon."

AP

In this June 1 , 2008, file photo, children play on a slide as the sun sets, in a park next to Tigris river ,Baghdad, Iraq.

Indeed, new walls are still going up, the latest one around the northwestern Shiite neighborhood of Hurriyah, where thousands of Sunnis were slaughtered or expelled in 2006. They could well be around for years to come, enforcing the capital's fragile peace and enshrining its sectarian divisions.

Some walls are colorful, painted by young local artists with scenes depicting green pastures or the pomp and glory of Iraq's ancient civilizations.

Others are commercial, plastered with fliers advertising everything from the local kebab joint to seaside vacations in Iran or university degrees in Ukraine.

Still others are religious or political, with posters of popular clerics or graffiti hostile to the United States, Israel or—most recently—Iraq's prime minister.

Most are just bleak and gray, a reminder that danger lurks on the other side.

Dora, a one-time stronghold of Sunni insurgents in southern Baghdad, has so many walls and observation towers that some parts resemble a maze.

The district's notorious Moalimeen area, which until a year ago had been among the most dangerous places in the capital, is now accessible to pedestrians through revolving iron doors guarded by security troops.

US to call for UN action vs Zimbabwe

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States plans to introduce a U.N. resolution next week calling for tough action against Zimbabwe's government, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Saturday, to prevent the country's leaders from further abusing its population.

Speaking with reporters on her way to Seoul, South Korea, Rice said the U.S. and Britain could present the resolution to the U.N. Security Council as early as Monday.

The action is in response to the widely denounced runoff election in which Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe is accused of using violence to coerce people to vote for him.

"It is time for the international community to act," Rice said. "It is hard to imagine that anybody could fail to act given what we're all watching on the ground in Zimbabwe.

"There needs to be a really strong message from the international community about what has happened there," she said.

A proposed resolution is being drafted and officials said it would probably be circulated informally over the weekend and presented to the full council Monday.

The U.S. currently holds the rotating presidency of the Security Council.

Rice declined to specify what will be in the proposed resolution but said there "has to be a deterrent effect from the international community at this point to (halt) further intimidation, further violence against the population."

Buckingham Palace says queen costs taxpayers little

LONDON (AP)—Buckingham Palace accountants insisted Friday that the cost of maintaining Queen Elizabeth II and the royal family is a bargain for taxpayers, despite a price tag of 40 million pounds ($80 million), while a prominent anti-monarchist group said many of the true costs are hidden.

The Republic group also complained that the queen and her husband, Prince Philip, spent more than 22,000 pounds ($44,000) of public money to take a helicopter to the Kentucky Derby during a prolonged official visit to the United States.

"She took a day off and went to the horse races and it cost the taxpayers a lot of money," said Republic spokesman Graham Smith. "We're going to raise serious questions about that. Why are we paying for a day at the races?"

The figures released Friday are incomplete, he said, because they don't include such things as security and the costs to local governments of royal visits.

In their annual report on the use of public money to support the queen and senior royals in their officials duties, Buckingham Palace officials stressed that the cost of the monarchy for each taxpayer is just 66 pence ($1.30) for each British subject.

It costs each Briton "less than the cost of two pints of milk or a download to an iPod" to fund the monarchy, according to a statement posted Friday on the queen's Web site.

Focus

High oil prices could be here to stay

By EMMA VANDORE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
A person pulls a gas pump from his vehicle after filling his tank in Philadelphia, Friday, June 27, 2008.

PARIS (AP)—Damien Barilko, co-founder of the Paris electric bike company Velocito, said sky-high gas prices have finally succeeded where environmentalists and governments have failed: persuading motorists to go green.

Many customers who have done the math are laying down $4,600 on eco-friendly bikes, but their reasons are different from those of Barilko, who said he likes the product because it is "a clean mode of transportation."

"Most people come for economic reasons. The ecological reasons are an afterthought," he said. Nevertheless, sales have doubled each year since Barilko opened his first store in 2005.

While consumers and governments struggle with steep oil prices, one of the biggest questions looming over the global economy is this: Will costs ever come down? Unlike the energy crisis of the 1970s, when the world assumed the spike was temporary, high energy prices could be here to stay, according to oil experts.

"The power of the market is far more powerful than the government," said John Kingston, global director of oil for energy information firm Platts. "Most people are convinced that this is not going to go away."

Oil rose last week to $142 a barrel—a once-unimaginable level. There are signs that eye-popping prices are curbing the appetite for oil in developed countries, but economists and energy experts said that might not matter anymore.

The International Energy Agency predicts global demand for petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and heating oil will grow by 0.9 percent, or 800,000 barrels a day, in 2008. That's down from the 1.2 percent, or 1 million barrels, the IEA forecast earlier this year.

Meanwhile, demand in developing countries, particularly China, continues to accelerate, according to the Paris-based energy watchdog.

"Whatever cuts are made today by the major players of 30 years ago are all going to be eaten up by nations that weren't even on the radar screen then," said Global Insight analyst Mary Novak. "There is no more supply. There is only demand."

Developing nations have subsidized fuel to ensure peace and to support economic growth. But those policies have begun to falter.

Malaysia and India, groaning under the weight of high fuel prices, have just begun cutting subsidies. Analysts such as Michael Lynch of Strategic Energy & Economic Research in Winchester, Mass., said others will follow.

"At this level of prices, very few countries can afford subsidies if they are importing," he said.

There is political pressure to help consumers being hurt by high prices.

On Thursday, Spain entered its fourth day of a truckers strike, which has snarled roads and led to the arrests of 71 people.

In Malaysia, protest groups vowed to push ahead with mass demonstrations against a 41 percent increase in gasoline prices. Similar protests have happened in South Korea, Belgium, Thailand, Scotland, Poland, the U.S. and elsewhere.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has urged his EU partners to suspend part of the value-added taxes, but his proposals have found few takers in other European capitals. Nor has Italy been successful with its proposal for a "Robin Hood" tax on oil profits.

"In the short term, changes will be seen mostly in the actions of the consumer," said Manouchehr Takin, an analyst at the Center for Global Energy Studies in London. He predicts an even smaller increase in demand than the IEA.

The high crude prices have begun to force changes that will not soon be reversed.

General Motors Corp. is closing four North American plants that make trucks, as more consumers look for smaller cars, which are often manufactured overseas.

Americans, the world's largest gas guzzlers, are also buying less gas, which hit another record on Thursday, the latest in a string of all-time highs.

Businesses are restricting travel and opting for teleconferencing to reduce costs, as well as trying to pass some of their increased fuel bills onto consumers.

Airlines have raised fares repeatedly, but can't cut costs fast enough to cover the rising cost of fuel. Southwest Airlines recently revealed it is flying slower and will save $42 million in fuel this year by extending each flight by one to three minutes.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and the most influential member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, believes the sustained high prices will eventually slacken the world's appetite for oil.

OPEC has been reluctant to increase production, arguing that prices are being set by speculators, not oil availability.

That view is supported by Paul Stevens, a researcher on the energy, environment and development program at Chatham House, a London think tank for international affairs. He said prices could "come down very quickly or very significantly" by as much as $50 a barrel if the speculative bubble bursts.

The U.S. Energy Department said prices at the pump will probably stay around $4 per gallon through much of next year.

In 2009, crude oil is expected to average $126 per barrel—$4 higher than this year, the head of the federal Energy Information Administration told lawmakers this week. The Energy Department said there may be a brief dip in crude by 2010, but the long-range expectation is for more expensive oil.

"This looks different," said Novak, of Global Insight. "Price spikes in the past were event driven, and that does not appear to be the case here."

Record oil prices biggest difference from last market downturn in 2002

By JOE BEL BRUNO
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors who remember the stock market's steep and prolonged decline earlier this decade may be wondering if the recovery from Wall Street's current morass will also take several years to accomplish.

The dot-com bust, terrorist attacks, recession and corporate wrongdoing combined to send stocks plunging in 2002. Today's market has some similar problems, in particular the troubled economy and a devastated industry—this time, it's the financial sector. But there's one variable that may be impossible to resolve: oil prices that have more than doubled in a year and show no signs of abating.

"The economic gloom is far greater today then it was in 2002 because we have concern about worldwide inflation and what oil is going to do to the economy," said Alfred E. Goldman, chief market strategist at Wachovia Securities. "The problem for investors is when all of this is going to end, and the bottom line is nobody knows. Nostradamus wouldn't have known, neither would Albert Einstein."

Crude oil has risen nearly 44 percent in the past five months, and OPEC's president said this week he believes oil could rise to between $150 and $170 a barrel this summer; it closed at a record high past $142 a barrel on Friday. That's still lower then the $200 peak recently forecast by economists at investment bank Goldman Sachs.

The uncertainty about where energy prices are going makes it harder for economists to make forecasts. Many believe the high price of energy will eventually reverse after oil goes so high that demand shrivels and supplies increase—but calculating a timeline is difficult.

That leaves investors "just along for the ride," Wachovia's Goldman said.

Wall Street saw a return this past week of the volatility that had pummeled stocks since last summer but disappeared for a while during the spring. Investors were rattled not only by the uncertainty about oil's impact, but discouraging outlooks for the financial, high-tech and automotive industries.

This past week, the Dow Jones industrials plunged 4.2 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500 shed 3 percent and the Nasdaq composite index fell 3.8 percent.

The market is worried about the direct correlation between the cost of energy, especially gasoline, and consumers' spending habits. Higher pump prices mean Americans might think twice about discretionary items like going out to dinner, buying new clothes, or paying for a new big screen television. Or buying a new car.

Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic growth. Though there are no signs that spending has dried up entirely, many market observers fear it could happen—especially as gasoline hovers near a U.S. average of $4.08 per gallon ($1.07 a liter).

Wall Street's low point in 2002 was attributed to a host of problems such as the accounting fraud at corporate names like Enron, Adelphia Communications and WorldCom. Global tensions after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks also hung over the market. There was still fallout from the near-collapse of the high-tech industry, and the country's collective problems had also sent the economy into recession.

But, with oil at about $30 a barrel, inflation was under control. The market's troubles were not seen as a systemic risk, as they are today.

"I knew we'd get through all the problems in 2002 because it was your plain vanilla, fairly shallow recession," said Stephen Leeb, president of New York-based Leeb Capital Management and author of "The Oil Factor."

"Right now, I think we're in one of the most threatening crisis of our history, and it is going to take a Manhattan Project to figure out what to do and it will take billions of dollars to implement it," he said, referring to the program during World War II to build the atomic bomb. "It can't immediately be cured because we need long-term answers."

The Federal Reserve, which kept interest rates on hold this past week, is well aware of the problem of expensive oil. The Fed statement released after its rate decision said "the rise in energy prices are likely to weigh on economic growth over the next few quarters."

But, Leeb and others believe this isn't something the Fed can solve on its own. The central bank's weapon against inflation is raising interest rates, which runs the risk of slowing down an already fragile economy.

Life & Style

James Bond's tailor is Ford, Tom Ford

By ADAM TSCHORN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MILAN, Italy—It's official: When James Bond returns for the next installment of the 007 franchise in November, he'll be ditching the Brioni suits he's worn for the last five movies and taking up with Tom Ford.

Ford confirmed the news Monday during men's fashion week as he was preparing to open his new five-story, 11,478-square-foot menswear store in Milan's "Golden Triangle" luxury shopping district.

"It's a terrific representation for us," said Ford, against the backdrop of the polished Macassar wood walls of his made-to-measure suiting salon. "A lot of people think if you wear conservative clothing your life is dull and uninteresting. But James Bond is this character who is sophisticated yet he sleeps with three girls at once and (has a car) with parachutes coming out of it. His life is very interesting, so I thought it was a good fit."

It's not too much of a leap, since Bond actor Daniel Craig was one of the first celebrities Ford dressed in his namesake men's line launched last year, which has a traditional, English bespoke feel.

Ford first made a name for himself in the womenswear arena during his tenure as creative director of Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent. After his high-profile departure in 2004, he took his rock-star status, dashing good looks and creative energies elsewhere. He's dabbled in publishing, as guest editor for the 2006 Vanity Fair Hollywood issue in which he appeared on the cover alongside Scarlett Johansson and Keira Knightley (they were naked, he was not) and Hollywood (the part-time L.A. resident said he wants to direct), before launching fragrance and eyewear collections in 2005.

He opened his first menswear store on Madison Avenue in April 2007. Since then, his Italian-made suits (which start at $3,800 off the rack and $5,000 made-to-measure) have been seen on A-listers such as Brad Pitt, who recently showed up at the Cannes Film Festival in a Tom Ford.

The designer said he didn't differentiate between the way he dressed Bond on screen in "Quantum of Solace" and the way he dresses the man who plays him. "Their tastes are very similar," Ford said. "Daniel knows himself really well and he likes to keep it very, very, very, very simple. For example, it's hard to get him to wear diamond studs with a tuxedo. He prefers buttons."

Ford worked with the film's costume designer, Louise Frogley, to create made-to-measure suits, shirts, knitwear, ties and a Tom Ford take on the well-dressed British agent's signature tuxedo, in navy blue.

"We made about 420 pieces for 11 costume changes," Ford said. "For each scene we made three suits that were perfect, three suits that were bloodied and blown up, three suits that were bloodied, blown up and had been in a pool—and then we had to make most of those different permutations for the stunt men as well."

Ford said the opportunity arose because Craig was already a fan of his work—and apparently the feelings are mutual.

"He's the best Bond since Sean Connery. He's a terrific guy to dress and he's pretty powerful with what he wears."

Tom Ford confirmed the news Monday that he will be providing the suits when James Bond returns for the next installment of the 007 franchise in November.

Big hair makes a comeback

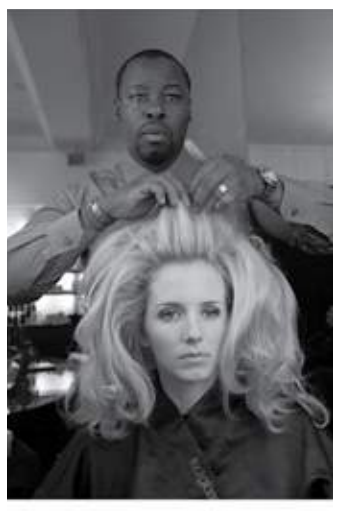
By MELISSA MAGSAYSAY
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Just when you thought all '80s fashion revivals had run their course, big hair is back.

Just look at Angelina Jolie on the cover of this month's Vanity Fair and Sarah Jessica Parker in the "Sex and the City" movie poster to see that the chic set is turning up the volume. We're not talking the teased, sprayed locks of the Bangles, Bananarama and Dolly Parton. The modern version of big hair crosses the soft pouf of Krystle Carrington's "Dynasty" coif with the cascading fullness of a Victoria's Secret model's waves—sexy, but with a touch of Aqua Net nostalgia. Tease too much and you'll end up looking as if you stuck your finger in a light socket, but master the technique and treat your tresses with the right product, and you'll look like a Sophia Loren sex kitten.

The man who gives Jolie, Anne Hathaway and the Victoria's Secret models their big, beautiful hair is celebrity stylist Ted Gibson. Last week, he took a few moments at his New York salon to show us how to go over-the-top sexpot or just add a little Giselle to your summer look. His step-by-step process is less complicated than it may seem, but it requires a few key products: a blow-dryer, some hair spray—and remember hot rollers?

Big hair may be back on the radar this summer, but Gibson says the look is always in style—sans the '80s stickiness, of course. "This kind of hair takes a certain attitude, a lot of personality," he says. "It's really about having the confidence."



Ted Gibson creates the big look on Nikki McHale at his Fifth Avenue salon in New York, top photo. McHale's face is framed by a massive sweep of tresses, bottom.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

To get fullness, start at the root. First, cleanly divide your hair into five even sections (hair can start wet or dry). Then apply a volumizing product to the scalp where each section is divided. Gibson favors his own product, called Build It. "It's about building volume without the weight."

Next, apply a light, controlling gel all over the hair. Gibson uses two or three pumps of Aveda's Phomollient styling foam, then combs through the hair with his trusty Mason Pearson brush. "Brushing the hair after applying these products will help distribute the product evenly." Blow-dry the hair until it's about 80 percent dry, and then finish by pulling the ends under using a round brush. "This helps get volume from the scalp." He uses a medium-size round barrel brush on Jolie, Hathaway and anyone with hair that hits from the chin to the clavicle. For shorter hair, use a small barrel.

Once the hair is completely dry, it's time for the hot rollers, which should be really hot. Wrap 2-inch sections of hair around each roller until you look like a '50s housewife. Leave rollers in for 10 to 15 minutes, or until they are completely cool. After taking the rollers out, the curls should be more like waves than ringlets. Then spritz a light hair spray all over the head. It should be a "working" hair spray, which means one that doesn't get sticky or stiff, allowing you to keep working and building volume. Gibson recommends his Beautiful Hold hair spray.

Throw your head over and brush out. "Again, you want volume from the scalp," Gibson says. "Make sure you do some back brushing. Just tease the hair a little at the crown, smooth down the top, and spray again. If you're concerned about fly-aways because of humidity, use a shine serum after brushing."

The look works for all ages, Gibson says. "Just look at the model Carmen del Orifice. She's been wearing her hair big forever. Now in her 70s, she still does, and she's completely gray! But I'm from Texas, so this all makes sense."

Ohio man accused of stalking teen singers

LANCASTER, Ohio (AP)—A man accused of stalking and threatening the teen sister act known as Aly & AJ sent e-mail and handwritten notes to the singing duo, police said Friday.

Rex Mettler, 42, of Lancaster, obtained contact information for the sisters and also made threats by phone, police detective Nick Snyder said. No further details were released.

Mettler appeared in Fairfield County Municipal Court on Friday, a day after his arrest on a felony charge of menacing by stalking. Bond was set at $50,000, and a preliminary hearing was scheduled for July 3. The court did not have an attorney listed for Mettler, a clerk said. No plea was entered.

Aly & AJ were scheduled to perform Friday night in Cincinnati, 110 miles southwest of Lancaster. Snyder said he could not comment on whether any of the alleged threats involved the Ohio show.

The Cincinnati concert would go on as planned, said Rosemarie Moehring, spokeswoman for National City Pavilion at Riverbend.

The charge against Mettler stems from incidents that began Dec. 15, Snyder said.

"Rex displayed a pattern of activity over that time that reflected multiple attempts, if not numerous attempts, at stalking these females," he said.

The investigation began in southern California, where the entertainers live. Lancaster police were contacted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which provided assistance that led to the arrest, Snyder said.

Aly & AJ are Alyson Michalka, 19, and her sister, Amanda, 17, who toured earlier this year with fellow Disney Channel star Miley Cyrus of "Hannah Montana." The Michalkas had a top 20 album in 2007 and top 20 single with "Potential Breakup Song" and are now touring on their own.

A Disney Channel spokeswoman did not return messages seeking comment.

Stars celebrate Mandela's 90th birthday

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Will Smith charmed the crowd, Amy Winehouse wowed them just by showing up—but Nelson Mandela proved the biggest star of all at a concert in honor of the South African statesman's 90th birthday.

Acts including Queen, Razorlight, Leona Lewis and a host of African stars joined more than 40,000 music fans for the outdoor show in London's Hyde Park Friday, hosted by Hollywood star Smith and held to mark Mandela's birthday on July 18.

American singer Josh Groban and the Soweto Gospel Choir also performed at the event, which comes 20 years after a 70th birthday concert at London's Wembley Stadium that helped press South Africa's apartheid authorities for Mandela's freedom.

The biggest cheers of the night were reserved for Mandela, who told the crowd that the 1988 concert had made a difference.

"Your voices carried across the water to inspire us in our prison cells far away," said Mandela who spent 27 years in South African prisons. "We are honored to be back in London for this wonderful celebration.

"But even as we celebrate, let us remind ourselves that our work is far from complete."

Proceeds from the show—for which there were 46,664 tickets—are going to 46664, the AIDS charity named for the number Mandela wore in prison.

Mandela looked frail and leaned on a cane as he was helped onto the stage by his wife, Graca Machel. But his brief speech brought thunderous applause.

AP
Former South African president Nelson Mandela, center, arrives on stage at the 46664 charity concert in honor of Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday in London, Friday, June 27, 2008. The former South African president's 90th birthday falls on July 18.

"Where there is poverty and sickness including AIDS, where human beings are being oppressed, there is more work to be done," Mandela said. "Our work is for freedom for all.

"We say tonight after nearly 90 years of life, it is time for new hands to lift the burdens. It is in your hands now."

Also on the lineup were Annie Lennox, reggae star Eddy Grant, girl group Sugababes and African artists including Emmanuel Jal, Johnny Clegg and Papa Wemba.

One of the biggest stars was Winehouse, whose participation looked doubtful after she collapsed at home last week and was hospitalized. But she made it. Looking composed if slightly unsteady—and buoyed by the crowd and her excellent band—she performed two of her best-known songs, "Rehab" and "Valerie."

She returned at the end of the show to lead the artists in a rendition of The Specials' 1984 hit "Free Nelson Mandela."

Winehouse spent several days in a London hospital undergoing tests. Her father said she had developed the lung disease emphysema from smoking cigarettes and crack cocaine, although her spokeswoman later said Winehouse only had pre-emphysema symptoms.

One of the past century's most admired political figures, Mandela attracted a sense of respect approaching reverence from concertgoers and performers alike.

Singer Leona Lewis dedicated her global chart-topper "Bleeding Love" to him, saying that when she was a child her aunt and grandmother told her stories "about this incredible, wonderful and great man, Nelson Mandela."

"Happy birthday. Thank you so much for everything," she said.

Many who turned out on a cool, blustery London evening said they had come to see the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Mandela rather than any particular act.

THREE WISE GUYS

Too many mattresses, crying uncle

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Wise Guys:

I have long wondered why there are so many mattress stores in this area. For a product that most people buy every 10 to 15 years, do we need a store on every corner? What is the attraction to a product that is so boring?—Jim

Joe: Beds are boring, Jim? I'm not sure we can help you with that. I checked in with Dan and Justin, and each of us goes through three to five beds a month. I even have one of those punch cards from my favorite mattress store.

Dan: One more bed, and I get a free foot-long sub.

■■■

Dear Wise Guys:

I was riding the subway recently when I noticed a cool ad for the International Spy Museum. It said something along the lines of "Other museums have treasures, most of our stuff is stolen," with a picture of satellite dishes on it. I know Metro won't keep that ad up forever. I was wondering how I could get my hands on it so I could hang it in my house. (I like to collect kitschy ads.) I hope the answer isn't classified!—Meghan

Justin: Metro spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein says it's all up to the company that owns the ad. "Sometimes the people who purchase those ads and produce them want to keep them, and sometimes they don't," she says. "If somebody was interested in getting one ... they will need to contact the vendor that we use who posts them up for us." That vendor would be CBS Outdoor (www.cbsoutdoor.com). Good luck with your Spy Museum ad.

Joe: I wonder if Metro gives discounts for ads with smoke damage.

■■■

Dear Wise Guys:

Why do people say "I'm going to make you cry 'uncle' " when they are looking for submission from an opponent? Could it be that it started with two cousins fighting at dinner? Probably not, but got any better ideas?—Suzanne and Karl

Dan: One doesn't cry "uncle." One cries "U.N.C.L.E.," as in "The Man From . ..." This idiom stems from a clever marketing ploy used by NBC to promote the '60s TV series starring Robert Vaughn. Children were instructed to cry "U.N.C.L.E.!" while losing a fight to prompt the aggressor to stop throwing punches and say, "What do you mean, 'uncle'?" At this point, the bullied would start his pitch about this really cool show about spies, and soon both he and his bully would be carrying on about James Bond and mini rocket cigarettes. Both would wind up in front of the tube, the discord would be calmed and "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." would have one more dedicated viewer.

Justin: NBC should revisit that marketing strategy. I can just see the kids in my neighborhood yelling "Chuck!"

Joe: Back on Earth, I actually looked at this question seriously and couldn't find where saying "uncle" comes from. If anyone knows the origin of the idiom, e-mail us with "uncle" in the subject line. Correct (or fanciful) explanations are welcome.

■■■

Dear Wise Guys:

In reference to the immature, alcoholic pig roasters (WISEGUYS, moved June 16), what would your advice have been if they were going to roast a dog (and put his head on a stick in the front yard)? For people capable of reasoned logic rather than blind adherence to tradition, there is no difference between roasting a pig or a dog.

As a vegan (shouldn't you have checked with one?), I would not be the least bit appreciative of any warning. That is basically saying, "We expect you to be offended but lack consideration and are going to do it anyway." I would suggest they ditch the get-together until these people grow up, as these drunken gatherings might cause attendees to hook up and have children they are not mature enough, or compassionate enough, to raise.—Vegan Guy

Joe: I've never had roasted dog, but my guess is that it wouldn't taste nearly as good as roasted pig. That, however, seems a question of flavor rather than logic. Still, we agree that it's a bit unseemly to put the pig's head on a stake just for the sake of tradition.

'The Wire' among Emmy Award semifinalist nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Emmy nominations could mark a breakthrough for shows as varied as "The Wire," "Mad Men" and "Family Guy." The programs are among the 10 drama series and 10 comedies that emerged as the semifinalists in balloting by Academy of Television Arts & Sciences members, the academy said Thursday.

The final five nominees in each category will be determined with the help of blue-ribbon panels that are to screen submitted episodes for the top vote-getters this weekend. The results, based on both the academy vote and the panels' decisions, will be announced July 17.

The possibilities are tantalizing.

"The Wire," the critically acclaimed HBO drama that traces urban decay through the stories of police and drug dealers in Baltimore, has a last shot at ending years of Emmy snubs: it recently wrapped its fifth and final season.

It could help fill the void for HBO created by the end of "The Sopranos."

Basic cable has the chance for an unprecedented milestone, with AMC's "Mad Men," about Madison Avenue circa 1960, and FX's legal drama "Damages," starring Glenn Close, among the semifinalists. Although premium channels like HBO and Showtime routinely field nominees, basic cable has yet to nab a best drama or comedy series bid, the academy said.

AP
In this undated file image originally released by HBO, actors, from left, Sonja Sohn, Wendell Pierce, Dominic West are shown in a scene from HBO's "The Wire".

"Family Guy" has the chance to achieve what has eluded even stellar veteran "The Simpsons": a best comedy series bid. "Family Guy" is on the short list for the category, and also submitted a special episode for best animated program longer than an hour.

"The Simpsons" made one effort at getting a comedy series bid, according to the academy, but it has routinely competed in—and often won—the category for animated series of a half-hour or less.

Premium cable and network shows are both well-represented on the comedy front with such shows as HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and NBC's "30 Rock," which was last year's winner in the category.

As posted by the TV academy on its Web site, the best drama semifinalists are: "Boston Legal"; "Damages"; "Dexter"; "Friday Night Lights"; "Grey's Anatomy"; "House"; "Lost"; "Mad Men"; "The Tudors" and "The Wire."

Among the snubbed series were "Desperate Housewives" and "Heroes," a nominee last year that failed to make even the top 10 cut this time around.

Semifinalists for best comedy are "Curb Your Enthusiasm"; "Entourage"; "Family Guy"; "Flight of the Conchords"; "The Office"; "Pushing Daisies"; "30 Rock"; "Two and a Half Men"; "Ugly Betty" and "Weeds."

Last year's group of nominees was dominated by network series, although "The Sopranos" went out with a blaze of glory and claimed the best drama trophy.

Wonder talks about tour, inspirations, Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—Stevie Wonder is fidgeting with his camera phone, embarrassed because he can't get it to work right.

But wait, it's not what you think.

Wonder is trying to show a reporter how the device helps him "see" written documents; moments later, the blind superstar reveals how the camera takes photos of text, converts it to audio and reads the words aloud, and instantly has wowed his audience of one.

But Wonder doesn't need to rely on technology to amaze: Now on a nationwide tour, all he needs to do is open his mouth and start singing some of his classic hits: "Superstitious," "I Wish," "As," "My Cherie Amour"—and he gets a crowd into a frenzy. Actually, just his appearance on stage is usually enough: His icon status is enough to leave an audience in awe.

In person, Wonder, 58, comes off more like your friendly uncle than a legendary musical figure: He cracks jokes, tells stories, and opines about politics and world peace. Here's a sampling of what Wonder had to say when he spoke recently with The Associated Press.

AP: Before you started touring last fall, your last full-fledged tour was in 1996. Why did you decide to get back on the road?

Wonder: Just having a chance to say thank you to the fans. After I lost my mother in May of 2006 I had said that I wasn't going to perform for a while. But I got the message (from my mother) to go and spread the message, celebrating some of the feats that we have such as coming together and fighting against apartheid. ... We cannot forever think that we will have the blessings that we have without staying on point.

AP: You are a supporter of Barack Obama. One refrain from a lot of people is that they never thought they'd see a day where there was a tangible possibility of a black president. Did you feel that way too or did you think that it could happen someday in your lifetime?

Wonder: Of course I did. I always felt: Why not? What's the big deal? Someday there will be a Latino president and an Asian president and a Jewish president. We can't talk about those things and then not be. The Lord that I serve says the impossible is unacceptable. If we can fly to Mars and have many trips to the moon ... will find the cure to cancer. I just feel that we need to use more of our power for the goodness. ... We are in a battle for good and evil. You've got to take a position. My focus is not just because he is an African-American ... but his spirit is one of being kind of free.

AP: If Obama is elected president, are you angling to perform at the inauguration?

Wonder: I'm just excited. Obviously if I'm invited to be there it's an honor, but I didn't do all of that to get a pat on the back. ... I'm just excited about it. It's time for America and the world to grow up and grow into the right now and stop the B.S., and B.S. stands for breaking the spirit.

AP: You have been more than a singer but an activist for years. Do you wish that younger singers were as concerned about social issues as you have been?

Wonder: There are very conscious people ... you've got various people doing their thing. There is a place of consciousness within. Someone has to stand out there and sometimes they have to stand alone. At the end of all that you are going to have people who take a position and move us forward. That doesn't mean that every single artist has to write some conscious song.

AP

Stevie Wonder is shown during an interview in New York, Friday June 20, 2008.

AP: Can you appreciate some of the less conscious—perhaps even a bit ignorant—songs on the radio today?

Wonder: The good thing about satellite radio is ... that there's a freedom of expression that happens. I'm not going to let my kids listen to raw (stuff), but I might a little. (Sings a little bit of Lil Wayne's "Lollipop"). I didn't know so many people were licking and sucking ... it's all over the place (laughs)!

AP: You ever wish you had the freedom back in the day to get a little raw on record?

Wonder: I don't think I would do a song that said can we (expletive) right now or anything like that. I don't think I would do something like that, or a song that said certain things, whether it be 30 years ago or right now. I don't see myself as doing that just because there are other things to saying what you wanna say without saying it like that. That's private business... I'm not an advocate of giving everything up. (Laughs.)

AP: You mentioned you are a fan of Nas. What do you think of the whole controversy about him initially wanting to title his new album the n-word?

Wonder: I'm not with the word only in that we had buried the word and it should have been buried. People say well we use it for fun and whatever. I'm not really feeling it and I know sometimes it comes in conversation ... For all the pain that has happened over the years, what that word brings up, it needs to go away.

AP: You have new projects coming out in the fall. Now veteran stars like the Eagles and Radiohead are finding new ways to put out music outside of traditional labels. What do you think of that?

Wonder: The world is changing. Things are just different. The world is evolving everyday so you have to stay with it or get left behind. there was a deal that I felt good about, I would jump right on it!

George Clooney calls for unity among actors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Clooney just wants actors to get along instead of choosing between sparring unions.

In a two-page letter released Thursday, Clooney adopted a neutral stance in the dispute between the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the Screen Actors Guild.

"What we can't do is pit artist against artist," he wrote.

AFTRA has already reached a tentative agreement with Hollywood studios. SAG wants AFTRA members to vote against the deal, saying its approval will handcuff SAG at the bargaining table.

Both unions' current contracts are set to expire Monday, leaving Hollywood on edge about a possible replay of the 100-day writers strike that ended in February.

Results of the AFTRA vote are expected July 8.

Tom Hanks, Alec Baldwin and others have joined hundreds of actors in signing an online petition urging actors to ratify the AFTRA pact.

Meanwhile, Jack Nicholson, Viggo Mortensen and Holly Hunter have endorsed a SAG ad calling for AFTRA to return to the negotiating table to get a better deal.

Clooney called the fight counterproductive.

"Because the one thing you can be sure of is that stories about Jack Nicholson vs. Tom Hanks only strengthens the negotiating power" of the studios, he said.

AP

In this Feb. 24, 2008 file photo, George Clooney arrives for the 80th Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

Clooney also called on higher-paid actors to chip in a greater share of union dues and for 10 A-listers—"people that the studio heads don't often say 'no' to," he suggested, listing only Nicholson and Hanks by name—to sit down with studio heads once a year to "adjust the pay for actors."

SAG deputy executive director Pamm Fair called Clooney's letter valuable input. AFTRA and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers declined comment.

'Voice' of WALL-E: Robot sounds toddler-inspired

By MICHAEL WEINFELD
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Ben Burtt, the two-time Oscar-winning sound engineer who designed the voices of R2-D2, ET and now the main character in "WALL-E," says his out-of-this-world audio often comes from the most mundane, Earth-bound activities—like a trip to the grocery store.

When he needed the sound of shopping carts banging together for a scene in Pixar's robot love story, Burtt took his 10-year-old daughter to a Safeway, where they put their recorder in a cart and pretended to shop (banging into things in the parking lot for good measure).

But when it comes to making robots emotionally resonant, Burtt bases his ideas on the voice of humans. Very small humans.

"The bulk of the vocals, the expressive vocals, are really sounds that are more like a toddler makes ... kind of the universal language of intonation," Burtt said in an interview aired on AP Radio. "'Oh,' 'Hm?,' 'Huh!,' you know? This sort of thing."

AP

In this image released by Disney Pixar, Oscar-winning sound engineer Ben Burtt works in his office on "WALL-E," on Feb. 14, 2008, at Pixar Animation Studios in Emeryville, Calif.

Sometimes, though, finding just the right sound is the product of a happy accident, said Burtt, who's won sound effects editing Oscars for 1989's "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" and 1982's "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial."

"I'd gotten a big punching bag, a big canvas bag that you normally would beat and box with it, and I wanted to do some impacts," Burtt said. "But I dragged it through the hallway to go to the studio on a rug, and it made a wonderful sound, like a howling wind."

The result: the main component of the sound of a wind storm in the film.

"WALL-E," a Walt Disney Pictures release, opens this weekend.

Another Lohan saga: Another Lohan?

NEW YORK (AP)—Another chapter has been added to the Lohan family saga—and this time, it may be another Lohan.

Michael Lohan, father of actress Lindsay, said in a statement Friday that he's looking into a woman's claim that she had a daughter by him.

Lohan said he once had a relationship with a woman named Kristy, whose last name he did not provide, and that he hadn't seen her in 12 years. He said the two were seeing each other while he was separated from Dina Lohan, and the woman was going through a divorce.

"Years later she contacted me convincing me that I was the only person she was with and that she had my child," the statement said. "My lawyers will sort this out."

OK! magazine, for which Michael Lohan has written a blog, first reported the story. It said the girl is now 13.

Leslie Sloane-Zelnik, the publicist for Lindsay Lohan, didn't immediately return phone and e-mail messages from The Associated Press on Friday.

Lohan

Michael Lohan has scheduled a press conference Friday night in Los Angeles to address the report.

Lohan, a former Wall Street broker, married Donata "Dina" Sullivan in 1985. They settled a long-simmering divorce last August, though they returned to court in Long Island earlier this month over custody issues.

Michael complained that Dina wasn't adhering to a visitation agreement involving their two youngest children, Ali, 14, and Cody, 12. The children live with their mother in the town of Merrick, and are featured on the E! reality show "Living Lohan," along with 20-year-old brother Michael.

Lindsay Lohan, who turns 22 July 2, is only name-checked on the series, which shows Dina Lohan managing Ali's fledging career as a singer.

Michael Lohan was released from prison in March 2007 after serving nearly two years for attempted assault and driving while intoxicated.

Ruben Studdard prepares for weekend wedding

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Former "American Idol" Ruben Studdard is getting ready for a weekend wedding in his home state of Alabama.

Studdard

Studdard, nicknamed the "Velvet Teddy Bear" on "Idol" for his big frame and sonorous voice, will marry Surata Zuri McCants, his girlfriend of two years, at the Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook on Saturday.

He met his bride-to-be during a CD-signing at a Wal-Mart store in Atlanta in October 2006. The 29-year-old singer says he was struck by McCants' beauty and later tracked her down in the toy department and asked for her telephone number.

Studdard is set to release a new album later this year.

Verne Troyer sues over sex tape

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Verne Troyer has sued TMZ and a pornography distributor, seeking the return of a sex tape he says was stolen and more than $20 million in damages. Troyer, who starred as "Mini Me" in two of the "Austin Powers" films, also wants the video removed from the celebrity gossip site.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, says the tape he made with a former girlfriend was stolen months ago.

Snippets surfaced Wednesday on TMZ.com, which reported that the video could fetch $100,000 from a porn distributor. SugarDVD says in a statement on its Web site that it's hoping for a deal with Troyer to distribute the full, 50-minute version.

A message left with TMZ was not immediately returned Friday afternoon.

AP

In this June 11, 2008 file photo, actor Verne Troyer poses on the press line at the premiere of the feature film "The Love Guru" in Los Angeles.

Redmond O'Neal pleads guilty to drug charges

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)—Redmond O'Neal, the son of Farrah Fawcett and Ryan O'Neal, has pleaded guilty to possessing heroin and methamphetamine.

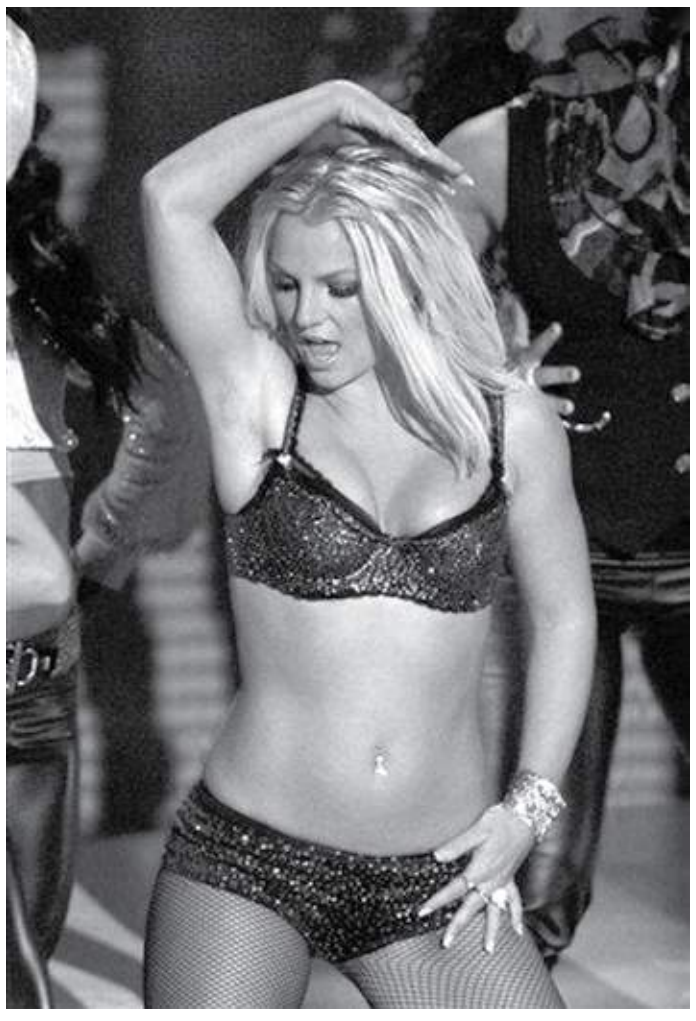
O'Neal

The 23-year-old O'Neal pleaded guilty Thursday in a Malibu court to the two felony counts and a misdemeanor count of driving under the influence of drugs. As part of a plea deal, a second DUI charge was dismissed.

He was placed on three years' probation on the misdemeanor charge and fined about $1,700.

The district attorney's office says O'Neal also was ordered to remain in drug treatment until a hearing next month to determine if he can enter a drug-diversion program on the felony charges.

O'Neal was arrested January 26th after he was stopped for speeding on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu.


AP

In this Sept. 9, 2007, file photo, Britney Spears performs at the MTV Video Music Awards held at the Palms Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

VMAs would consider second chance for Spears

LOS ANGELES (AP)—MTV isn't ruling out giving viewers more Britney Spears at this year's Video Music Awards. "Everyone deserves a second or third chance, right?" Van Toffler, president of MTV Networks Music Group, playfully told The Associated Press during a telephone interview Friday. When asked if he was just joking, Toffler said "sorta."

"Who knows?" he said.

Spears' out-of-it "Gimme More" comeback performance during last year's MTV Video Music Awards at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas was one of the most-talked televised moments of 2007. The drama-filled VMAs drew 7.1 million viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research. Another Spears redux could equal even more eyeballs.

"I'm not sure how we top Britney opening the show," said Toffler. "We are working on it every minute of every day."

This year's MTV Video Music Awards will air live from Paramount Pictures Studios in Los Angeles on Sept. 7. (MTV and Paramount are corporate cousins within Viacom Inc.)

Toffler said the award show's performances will occur on the lot's various sound stages, rooftops and faux city streets.

"The backlot gives us versatility," said Toffler. "You can do street performances, on-top-of-building performances, on-the-side-of-a-building performances, inside-of-a-studio performances, so we're pretty excited."

Family fun is no picnic if kids won't leave home

Dear Abby

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My children are 10 and 12. When my wife and I suggest that we all do something together, they whine and moan. We have to force them to go, or end up getting upset with them and staying home.

We live five minutes from the beach, but the kids say they "don't like" going to the beach. The bay is down the road, and we used to fish there all the time, have picnics, visit the local zoo and other outdoor activities. But we rarely go anymore. It seems that unless it involves spending money—like going on boardwalk rides or trips to the arcade—the children don't want to go. They would rather play on the computer, watch TV, or ride their bikes up and down the street.

Should we ease up and let them do their own thing since they are getting older, or continue to try to do family things together?

DISAPPOINTED DAD, NORTH CAPE MAY, N.J.

DEAR DAD: You and your wife are the parents in your family, and your wishes should be respected. Yes, your children are getting older, but doing something as a family twice a month isn't a punishment.

Perhaps you should ask them what THEY would like to do as a family. Another thought: Allow them both to include a friend in these activities. It could turn out to be more fun for all concerned. Give it a try.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Cindy," recently moved in with me. We have a history of fighting, often to exhaustion. I have been trying hard to improve my communication skills.

Something that troubles me is a tactic of hers that forces me to stay in the conversation when I need to take a break from it. Cindy literally stands in front of me when I'm trying to go outside to calm down. She will position herself in front of me without actually touching me, so I have to make physical contact in order to get out the door. Then she claims that I am abusive because of the extreme physical contact needed to get by her. If I give up and stay in the house, her verbal abuse will continue.

I feel trapped. I either endure her verbal abuse until she runs out of steam, or fall into her trap and become someone who physically abuses his girlfriend. I am twice Cindy's size, so I don't think authorities will buy my story of feeling trapped should she show them any marks I leave while trying to push through the door. What's the answer?

HELD HOSTAGE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR HELD HOSTAGE: Recognize that you and Cindy are too combustible a combination to have a healthy relationship and end it now. And when you do, be sure to have witnesses present who can help her pack her things.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old girl who can't swing up on a horse. Hard as I try, I just get laughed at by the people in my riding club. I keep practicing, but nothing works. What can I do? I need help, even my friends say so.

HOPELESS IN UTAH

DEAR HOPELESS: Try this. Go to a gym and have a trainer prescribe some exercises to increase the strength in your arms and legs. If you follow my advice, I predict that in a few months you will be the person getting the last laugh. (If that doesn't work, you may need a shorter horse.)

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Zheng upsets No. 1 Ivanovic at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—They're still counting casualties back home, and so when Zheng Jie completed the biggest victory of her career Friday at Wimbledon, she resisted any temptation to leap or squeal or pump her fist or collapse to the grass in glee.

Instead she merely cracked a slight smile, hoping her family, friends and fans in China could do the same.

The 133rd-ranked Zheng beat new No. 1 Ana Ivanovic 6-1, 6-4. It was the latest in a series of first-week upsets, and one easy to applaud because Zheng is a native of Chengdu, the capital of earthquake-stricken Sichuan province.

"Of course I hope to make people happy with my win," Zheng said. "I want more people to have their homes, be fine and happy."

Zheng's third-round victory, her first against a top-10 player, meant the earliest exit by a top-ranked woman at Wimbledon since Martina Hingis lost in the first round in 2001.

Ivanovic nearly departed in the second round. Zheng was watching on TV when the Serb won a reprieve Wednesday by skipping a forehand off the net cord to save match point, then rallied past Nathalie Dechy.

"Really lucky," Zheng said. "It gave me more belief, because I see it's very close. I think, `Maybe I have some chance.'"

Depending on results in the second week of the tournament, the 20-year-old Ivanovic could lose the No. 1 ranking she earned for the first time by winning the French Open three weeks ago.

She was gracious in defeat and said she's still learning how to play on grass.

"Sometimes you need a punch to realize what you have to work on," she said. "You have to accept that not every shot you're going to hit is going to be perfect. There are going to be quite a few bad bounces. That's something I found a little bit hard to deal with."

Capricious hops mean unpredictable results, and Ivanovic followed to the sideline fellow Serb Novak Djokovic, two-time runner-up Andy Roddick and second-ranked Maria Sharapova.

AP

Ana Ivanovic of Serbia reacts before being defeated by China's Zheng Jie in their their Women's Singles, third round match on the Number One Court at Wimbledon, Friday, June, 27, 2008.

As usual, the upset trend didn't apply to top-ranked Roger Federer, who won his 37th consecutive match at Wimbledon by beating Marc Gicquel 6-3, 6-3, 6-1. Federer, seeking his sixth consecutive Wimbledon title, will play Lleyton Hewitt, the only other former champion to enter the men's draw.

Others advancing included Marat Safin, who upset Djokovic in the second round, and Mario Ancic, the last player to beat Federer at Wimbledon. Ancic beat fifth-seeded David Ferrer 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (3).

The last American in the men's field, 102nd-anked Bobby Reynolds, lost to Feliciano Lopez 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4. Reynolds was the only U.S. male to reach the third round, the worst showing by Americans at Wimbledon since 1926.

"Obviously it's discouraging," Reynolds said. "I was the last one, and it's only the third round. That's not something we like to tip our hats to."

The situation was less gloomy for Americans on the women's side, where three players remain. Bethanie Mattek, who has never previously won more than one match at a Grand Slam event, advanced to the fourth round by beating 2007 runner-up Marion Bartoli 6-4, 6-1.

"This is a pretty amazing feeling," Mattek said. "It was pretty cool being able to beat the finalist last year."

Mattek will next play two-time champion Serena Williams, who defeated 2006 champ Amelie Mauresmo 7-6 (5), 6-1. Four-time champion Venus Williams is scheduled to play her third-round match Saturday.

Also advancing was fourth-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova, who can overtake Ivanovic in the rankings by reaching the final. No. 2 Jelena Jankovic can do so by reaching the semifinals.

The first rain delay of the tournament only postponed Ivanovic's departure. She struggled to put her service returns in play and found herself fooled repeatedly by bounces on the grass, which forced her to hit shots from awkward stances.

Two days after her great escape against Dechy, Ivanovic found herself again one point from defeat standing on the same court on the same side of the same net—the one she kissed to celebrate her reprieve.

Ready to mount another rally, she leaned forward awaiting the serve, stepped into her return, took a big swing—and shanked the ball into the stands, where no lucky bounce could save her.

Ivanovic conceded her new role as the world's top player has been an education.

"It was all new situations," Ivanovic said. "Everyone's going to be so pumped against you."

That was the case with Zheng, mounting a career comeback after she missed much of last year with an ankle injury. She needed a wild card to enter Wimbledon, but she has been at the forefront of her nation's emergence in tennis.

In 2004, Zheng reached the round of 16 at the French Open, the best showing by a Chinese woman in a major event. Two years later at the Australian Open, she and doubles teammate Yan Zi became the first Chinese players to win a Grand Slam title. They also won the doubles title at Wimbledon in 2006, when Zheng climbed as high as 27th in the singles rankings.

Zheng played at the Olympics in 2004 and will play singles and doubles for the home country at Beijing in August. The Olympic tournament will be on hard-court, but Zheng's best surface may be grass, even though she said there's no lawn tennis in China.

Her flat shots are well-suited for grass, and she had the 6-foot-1 Ivanovic bending low for balls.

"I like the grass," Zheng said. "This is why I can win the match."

She said her family and friends were able to watch despite the devastation resulting from the May 12 earthquake, which killed almost 70,000 people and left 5 million homeless.

"I've been lucky because my family is OK, but others haven't been," she said.

Two weeks after the disaster, Zheng played in the French Open, where she reached the third round and sent her prize money home.

"After Wimbledon I want to go back to do some more to support them in my city," she said. "Maybe I will give the money."

Not that Zheng needs more motivation to win Wimbledon, but the women's champion receives $1.5 million. The final will be on her 25th birthday.

NY prosecutors: Ref 'central' to NBA bet scandal

NEW YORK (AP)—Disgraced NBA referee Tim Donaghy has exaggerated his cooperation in a gambling investigation in hopes of lessening his prison term and avoiding paying hefty restitution, prosecutors said in court papers filed Friday.

He also has minimized his own role in the scheme, according to the filing in Brooklyn federal court.

Prosecutors rebuffed defense arguments that Donaghy should get a break on his sentence for voluntarily coming forward and giving prosecutors inside dirt about alleged game-fixing and other misconduct by other referees and league officials.

In the court papers, prosecutors said that by the time Donaghy decided to cooperate last year, "the government had a clear understanding of the criminal conspiracy, and who was involved." Though he deserves credit for giving investigators information on his two co-defendants, his claims of other internal NBA corruption "did not lead to evidence of prosecutable federal offenses," the papers added.

Defense attorney John Lauro declined comment Friday.

The 41-year-old Donaghy pleaded guilty last year to felony charges of taking cash payoffs from gamblers in the 2006-07 season. He faces up to 33 months in prison at sentencing, set for July 14.

His attorney has argued that it's unfair that Donaghy's co-defendants, a professional gambler and a middleman who also pleaded guilty, are facing less time—up to 16 months and up to 18 months, respectively. Their sentencing is scheduled for July 11.

But the government papers filed Friday argued the disparity makes sense because Donaghy was the plot's central figure.

"It was only Donaghy, by virtue of his position as an NBA referee, who had access to nonpublic and other inside information on which he based his gambling picks, and it was only Donaghy who had a duty to provide honest services to his employer, the NBA," prosecutors wrote. "Without Donaghy, the scheme simply could not have been carried out."

Prosecutors also supported NBA attorneys' arguments that Donaghy's betting over three seasons, starting in 2003, was "relevant conduct" that should be considered in deciding what he owes the NBA for his crimes.

Van Pelt leads Buick Open, shooting for first win

GRAND BLANC, Mich. (AP)—The PGA Tour's optimistic view of life without Tiger Woods is that it gives unheralded players a chance in the spotlight. Bo Van Pelt is trying to take advantage.

Van Pelt shot a 6-under 66 Friday at the Buick Open, making him a career-best 14-under 130 through 36 holes and the second-round leader by two shots.

He missed out on his best chance to win for the first time in seven PGA Tour seasons at the Puerto Rico Open, where he led for three-plus rounds before losing by a stroke to first-time winner Greg Kraft.

"The more I put myself in that position, one of these Sundays is going to be my day," he said.

Daniel Chopra (67) and Dudley Hart (68) head into the weekend at 12 under, two shots behind Van Pelt.

Woody Austin (67) was another stroke back along with Matt Jones (63).

While some relative unknowns fill the leaderboard at a tournament expecting to feature Woods before he had season-ending knee surgery, the top players in a lackluster field are failing to dominate.

Jim Furyk (No. 12), Justin Leonard (No. 23) and Kenny Perry (No. 27) are the only players among the top 30 in the world at Warwick Hills, where just nine of the top 50 players in the world ranking are competing.

Perry (67) fared the best of the trio of standouts, trailing Van Pelt by six shots. Leonard (68) was nine strokes back, and Furyk was another shot behind after following up a solid first round with an even-par 72.

Rocco Mediate (69) made the cut at 4 under in his first tournament since pushing Woods for five-plus rounds in the U.S. Open before coming up just short in a dramatic matchup watched by millions.

"I got some sleep and I played a little bit better," Mediate said.

The Buick Open isn't generating a ton of interest without Woods at Warwick Hills or elsewhere, but Van Pelt is doing his best to make a name for himself with a bogey-free 36 holes after starting the week 108th on the money list.

Ponson pitches Yanks to win after Delgado sets Mets record in opener

NEW YORK (AP) — Sidney Ponson pitched a gem in his return to the New York Yankees, silencing Carlos Delgado and the rest of the New York Mets for a 9-0 victory Friday night and a split of their two-ballpark doubleheader.

Delgado dominated the day game at Yankee Stadium, setting a Mets record with nine RBIs and hit a grand slam for one of his two homers in a 15-6 rout.

After both teams got police escorts for their rush-hour bus trips to Shea Stadium, Bobby Abreu went 4-for-4 with a walk and three RBIs as the Yankees enjoyed a blowout of their own. Ponson (5-1) outpitched Pedro Martinez (2-2) with six shutout innings, and the Bronx Bombers broke loose in Queens for their first win in four Subway Series games this season.

In the opener, Luis Castillo scored a career-high five runs, David Wright tied his career high with four hits and Carlos Beltran had a two-run homer for the Mets. Mike Pelfrey (5-6) struggled through five innings but managed to get the win.

Alex Rodriguez went 3-for-4 with a long home run for the Yankees, who swept the previous three doubleheaders between the teams. Dan Giese (1-3) allowed six runs and five hits in four-plus innings.

White Sox 10, Cubs 3

At Chicago, Nick Swisher's grand slam capped a seven-run third inning against Ryan Dempster and the White Sox beat the Cubs at U.S. Cellular Field.

The Cubs, who swept the White Sox at Wrigley Field last weekend by a combined score of 22-11, had won six straight against the White Sox and nine of the previous 10.

Jose Contreras (7-6) pitched six-plus innings and allowed seven hits, including three homers—back-to-back shots by Geovany Soto and Mike Fontenot in the fifth and another solo shot to Jim Edmonds in the seventh.

Braves 4, Blue Jays 0

At Toronto, Mark Teixeira hit a two-run homer and Jair Jurrjens pitched a career-high eight innings in Atlanta's victory.

Jurrjens (8-3) allowed just three hits—all singles—and didn't allow a runner to reach second base. He turned it over to Mike Gonzalez for the ninth.

Tigers 7, Rockies 1

At Detroit, Eddie Bonine (2-0) limited Colorado to five hits over eight innings to lift the Detroit Tigers in his third major league start.

Curtis Granderson was 4-for-5 with two triples for Detroit, which has won three straight, 14 of its last 18 and is one game under .500 for the first time since May 1. The Tigers have a chance to climb to .500 for the first time all season Saturday night.

Rays 10, Pirates 5

At Pittsburgh, Evan Longoria and Eric Hinske hit three-run homers off the Pirates' Jimmy Barthmaier in his major league debut and the streaking Tampa Bay Rays quickly opened a seven-run lead in beating Pittsburgh.

In a matchup of two of the majors' worst teams over the last decade, the much-improved Rays showed the Pirates their blueprint for rebuilding, with plenty of fast-progressing hitters who can hit for power. The Rays are a franchise-best 17 games over .500 at 48-31 after winning four in a row, five of six and 10 of 13.

Nationals 4, Orioles 2

At Washington, pinch-hitter Kory Casto doubled in the tie-breaking run in the seventh inning and scored on a single by Elijah Dukes to carry the Nationals to their second straight win following a four-game skid.

The game attracted a crowd of 35,830—the largest at the $611 million stadium since opening night.

Indians 6, Reds 0

At Cleveland, C.C. Sabathia struck out 11 over eight innings, including his hero Ken Griffey Jr. three times, to help the Cleveland Indians beat the Cincinnati Reds.

Grady Sizemore hit his 18th homer, drove in three runs and made a spectacular catch as Cleveland won for the first time in four meetings with its intrastate rival this season.

Sabathia (6-8) became the first Indians pitcher since Chuck Finley in 2000 to fan 10 or more in three consecutive starts.

Royals 7, Cardinals 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Alex Gordon drove in four runs with a homer and a bases-loaded double and the Kansas City Royals won for the 11th time in 12 games.

Gordon's solo shot off Joel Pineiro (2-4) put the Royals on top 5-0 in the fifth en route to their sixth straight win. David DeJesus had a two-run double off reliever Ron Villone as the Royals notched their longest win streak since opening the 2003 season 9-0.

Twins 7, Brewers 6

At Minneapolis, Joe Mauer hit a go-ahead solo homer in the eighth inning to lift the Minnesota Twins to their 10th straight win, all against NL teams.

Mauer sent an 0-2 pitch from reliever Guillermo Mota (2-4) over the center-field wall and sprinted around the bases to a standing ovation. Brian Buscher had the tying hit off reliever Brian Shouse in the seventh inning.

Red Sox 6, Astros 1

At Houston, Daisuke Matsuzaka (9-1) limited the Astros to two hits in five scoreless innings and Boston won its first regular-season game in Houston.

J.D. Drew hit a three-run homer and Mike Lowell added a two-run single in the ninth for the Red Sox, who stayed one-half game ahead of Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Reggie Abercrombie hit a solo homer off Hideki Okajima in the eighth, the first run allowed by Boston's bullpen in 12 innings. Houston starter Runelvys Hernandez (0-1) allowed three runs and five hits in five innings.

Rangers 8, Phillies 7

At Arlington, Texas, Milton Bradley hit a tiebreaking homer, Chris Davis homered in his first major league start and the Texas Rangers beat the slumping Philadelphia Phillies.

Bradley, starting for only the second time in nine games since sustaining a left quadriceps strain, hit a solo shot off Clay Condrey (1-1) in the fifth to snap a 6-6 tie.

Josh Rupe (3-1) pitched 2 1-3 innings for the win, and C.J. Wilson worked the ninth for his 17th save.

Pedro Feliz hit a grand slam for Philadelphia, whose lead in the National League East is down to one game over Florida after the Phillies' eighth loss in nine games.

Marlins 3, Diamondbacks 1

At Miami, Ricky Nolasco pitched eight effective innings, and Cody Ross homered to lift the Florida Marlins to a win over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Nolasco (8-4) struck out nine and gave up just one run and six hits for the Marlins, who have beaten the Diamondbacks all four times this season.

Nolasco is 7-1 in his last 10 starts with two no-decisions, and has been as close to an ace as the shaky Marlins' pitching staff has had this year.

Orlando Hudson's sacrifice fly in the first inning was the only run for the Diamondbacks, who fell to 1-6 to on their nine-game road trip. Kevin Gregg pitched a perfect ninth for his 14th save in 18 chances.

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Baltimore	40	38	.513	8
Toronto	38	43	.469	11 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	44	35	.557	–
Minnesota	44	36	.550	1/2
Detroit	39	40	.494	5
Cleveland	37	43	.463	7 1/2
Kansas City	37	43	.463	7 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	48	32	.600	–
Oakland	44	35	.557	3 1/2
Texas	41	40	.506	7 1/2
Seattle	29	50	.367	18 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	43	38	.531	–
Florida	41	38	.519	1
Atlanta	40	41	.494	3
New York	39	40	.494	3
Washington	32	49	.395	11

Central Division

Chicago	49	31	.613	–
St. Louis	45	36	.556	4 1/2
Milwaukee	43	36	.544	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	37	42	.468	11 1/2
Houston	37	43	.463	12
Cincinnati	36	45	.444	13 1/2

West Division

Arizona	40	40	.500	–
Los Angeles	37	42	.468	2 1/2
San Francisco	34	46	.425	6
Colorado	32	48	.400	8
San Diego	32	49	.395	8 1/2

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 15, N.Y. Yankees 6
Chicago White Sox 10, Chicago Cubs 3
Detroit 7, Colorado 1
Tampa Bay 10, Pittsburgh 5
Cleveland 6, Cincinnati 0
Atlanta 4, Toronto 0
Florida 3, Arizona 1
Washington 4, Baltimore 2
Boston 6, Houston 1
Texas 8, Philadelphia 7
N.Y. Yankees 9, N.Y. Mets 0
Minnesota 7, Milwaukee 6
Kansas City 7, St. Louis 2
Seattle 5, San Diego 2
Oakland 4, San Francisco 1
L.A. Dodgers 6, L.A. Angels 0

BUICK OPEN SCORES

GRAND BLANC, Michigan (AP)–Scores from Friday's second round of the $5 million Buick Open on the 7,127-yard, par-72 Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club:

THIRD ROUND

Bo Van Pelt	64-66	130
Daniel Chopra	65-67	132
Dudley Hart	64-68	132
Woody Austin	66-67	133
Matt Jones	70-63	133
Fredrik Jacobson	68-66	134
Bubba Watson	67-67	134
Ken Duke	69-66	135
Jon Mills	66-69	135
Todd Demsey	68-67	135
Charles Warren	67-68	135
Nick Watney	69-66	135
Lucas Glover	70-66	136
Ryan Palmer	70-66	136
Todd Hamilton	70-66	136
John Rollins	72-64	136
Kenny Perry	69-67	136
Michael Letzig	69-67	136
Tom Byrum	67-69	136
Briny Baird	65-71	136
Jason Gore	68-68	136
Stephen Leaney	67-70	137
Charles Howell III	71-66	137
Charlie Wi	72-65	137
Tag Ridings	67-70	137
Jimmy Walker	72-65	137
Brian Gay	69-68	137
Harrison Frazar	68-69	137
Chris DiMarco	70-68	138
Peter Lonard	70-68	138
Brad Elder	67-71	138
Dustin Johnson	68-70	138
Tom Lehman	71-67	138
Corey Pavin	64-74	138
Alex Cejka	70-68	138
Robert Garrigus	69-69	138
Kevin Streelman	70-68	138
Billy Mayfair	69-70	139
J.P. Hayes	71-68	139
Craig Barlow	70-69	139
Justin Leonard	71-68	139
Bob Tway	68-71	139
Brenden Pappas	70-69	139
Mark Hensby	71-68	139
Kenneth Ferrie	66-73	139
Brett Rumford	70-69	139
Paul Claxton	69-70	139
Shane Bertsch	71-69	140
Kevin Stadler	70-70	140
James Driscoll	72-68	140
Charley Hoffman	70-70	140
Chris Riley	71-69	140
Marc Turnesa	71-69	140
Dicky Pride	69-71	140
Steve Allan	69-71	140
Mathew Goggin	68-72	140
Lee Janzen	67-73	140
Kevin Na	67-73	140
Jim Furyk	68-72	140
Steve Lowery	69-71	140
Scott Verplank	68-72	140
Rod Pampling	71-69	140
Rocco Mediate	71-69	140
Nick O'Hern	68-72	140
Justin Bolli	70-70	140
Gavin Coles	71-69	140
Cameron Beckman	74-67	141
Tim Wilkinson	71-70	141
Brent Geiberger	71-70	141
Paul Goydos	71-70	141
Dan Forsman	71-70	141
John Huston	71-70	141
Jin Park	71-70	141
Kyle Thompson	71-70	141
Jason Day	73-68	141
Billy Andrade	71-70	141
Ben Crane	68-73	141
Glen Day	72-69	141
Bob Estes	70-71	141
Shigeki Maruyama	66-75	141
Michael Bradley	73-68	141
Mark Brooks	70-71	141
Jay Williamson	68-73	141
Heath Slocum	72-69	141
Chez Reavie	72-69	141

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Schedule
Sunday, June 29

9am CNMI vs. Indonesia Juniors
11am Philippines vs. Guam Juniors
1pm Philippines vs. Guam Seniors
3pm Philippines vs. GuamBig League

CNMI

From Page 28

Other than Vicente Camacho, who went 2-for-3 with one run and one RBI, the CNMI's sluggers faired poorly against the Guamanians and it needed a pitching performance to remember from San Nicolas for the hosts to pull off the win.

For the record, the CNMI scored a run in the first, two in the second before adding a run each in the fourth and seventh innings.

The CNMI-Guam match followed an opening ceremony that saw the region's Little League bigwigs and local officials welcome the delegations from the Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and Guam to the "Road to the World Series."

Acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez also said that he is proud of the world-class level of competition and organization that the islands' Little League has capably demonstrated the past several years.

"They have indeed established a highly respectable organization and have proven locally, regionally, and internationally that steadfast perseverance for civic volunteerism and unshakeable belief in the infinite potential of our islands' youth is win-win endeavor that magnified the true spirit of units in our close-knit community."

For his part, Little League Baseball and Softball Asia-Pacific director B.H. Chow is amazed on how the sport has grown by leaps and bounds around the region and beyond.

"I'm so glad to inform that the Little League in this region has grown rapidly along with the new Little League participation of Australia, India, and Singapore. Age above 12-years-old leagues are coming with new faces from more countries."

CNMI District Administrator James Ada, Saipan Little League Baseball Association president Juan I. Tenorio, and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela also had their turns on the podium and welcomed the over 300 Little League players and officials to the CNMI.

ANKLE

From Page 28

I could barely walk but hopefully I'll recover for the Fiji tournament," said Heo in an email to the *Saipan Tribune* last Wednesday.

Lemaitre and Schorgen made it to the quarterfinals after beating Mitchell and Australia's Barrett Franks in the second round, 7-5, 6-2.

Heo and Pineda, meanwhile, advanced to the second round with a 6-3, 6-0 triumph over New Caledonia's Titouan Gueneau and Loic Pierre earlier in the week.

Heo earlier said he is learning a lot from the tournament in the French territory. He said despite the rollercoaster ride he is happy he will finally get points from the ITF.

Heo accumulated a grand total of 15 points from the tournament.

The Noumea event, which runs run from June 22 to 27, is a Grade 5 ITF Junior tournament which will give 30 ranking points to the champion, 20 to the runner-up, 15 to the semifinalists, 10 to the quarterfinalists, and five to Round of 16 qualifiers.

Aside from the tournament in New Caledonia, Heo will be leaving for Fiji at the conclusion of the Noumea tournament to compete in the 2008 Air Pacific Open Junior Championships. The event in Fiji will run from June 30 to July 5.

Heo will also be leading the North Pacific Team in the POJC, where he will be playing against players from Australia, New Zealand, and selected East and North Pacific bets in the Open Championships.

Heo automatically qualified for the POjC after a runner-up finish in the same event last year, while his other NMI teammates vied for slots in the regional meet through the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam two weeks ago.

2008 Oceania Championships

Photos BY DAN KIMBALL

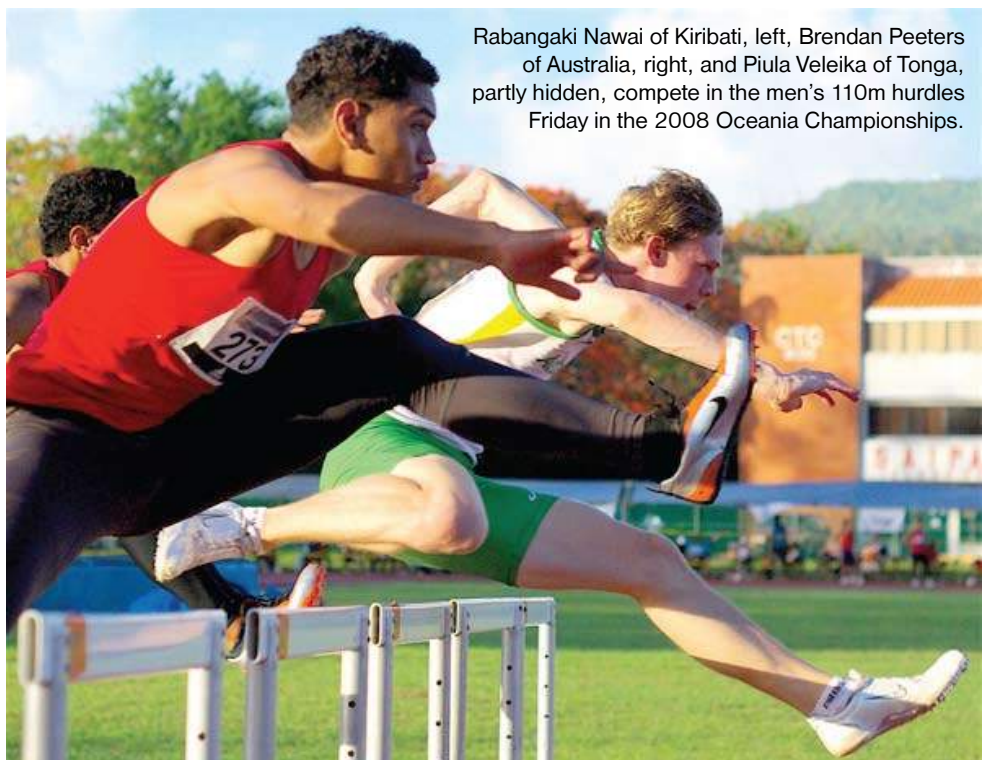
Kelly Humpries of Australia won the hammer throw of the 2008 Oceania Championships by registering a 45.57 Friday at the Oleai Track and Field.

Frank Louie of Fiji finished fourth in the long jump with his 6.96m.

Aunese Curreen (246) won the men's 800m in last Friday's 2008 Oceania Championships.

Toriki Urarii of Tahiti in action in the high jump event of the men's octathlon in the 2008 Oceania Championships Friday.

From left, New Zealand's Alex Jordan, Douglas Schmidt of Palau, Mason Holm of Australia, and Joe Matmat of Papua New Guinea compete in the under-18 200m sprint of the 2008 Oceania Championships.



Rabangaki Nawai of Kiribati, left, Brendan Peeters of Australia, right, and Piula Veleika of Tonga, partly hidden, compete in the men's 110m hurdles Friday in the 2008 Oceania Championships.

PNG's Sandy Katsule bagged the bronze in the long jump with a leap of 6.98m Friday in the 2008 Oceania Championships.

The CNMI's Champ Untalan bagged a bronze in the men's under-18 3000m run Thursday in the 2008 Oceania Championships.

The CNMI's Jacque Wonenberg won the CNMI first gold medal of the 2008 Oceania Championships by topping the women's under-18 heptathlon Friday at the Oleai Track and Field.

Salome Dell of Papua New Guinea and Salote Mereula of Fiji congratulate each other after the women's 400m Friday.

Ponson pitches Yanks to win after Delgado sets Mets record in opener

Sidney Ponson pitched a gem in his return to the New York Yankees, silencing Carlos Delgado and the rest of the New York Mets for a 9-0 victory Friday night and a split of their two-ballpark doubleheader. 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Zheng upsets No. 1 Ivanovic at Wimbledon

They're still counting casualties back home, and so when Zheng Jie completed the biggest victory of her career Friday at Wimbledon, she resisted any temptation to leap or squeal or pump her fist or collapse to the grass in glee. 25

Tahitians finish 1-2 in half marathon

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

French Polynesia spoiled Brendan Whelan's quest for a second gold medal of the 2008 Oceania Championships when Tutea Degage and Teiva Izal beat the exhausted Aussie in the half marathon along Beach Road early yesterday morning.

Degage, who has been competing in the Championships since the 1990s, took the gold medal with a time of 1:17:38.67. He was followed around two minutes later by his compatriot, Teiva Izal, who checked in at 1:19:57.75.

A hobbling Whelan, who led the first 10 kilometers of the 4.2-mile race, arrived at the finish line close to five minutes later and clocked in at 1:19:58.75.

Almost all the competitors said the half marathon was difficult because of the island's incomparable humidity.

Degage, for instance, said the 77 minutes it took for him to finish the race was well below his usual time.

"It was a very hard and very hot. It's my first time on Saipan and I've never ran the race in summer weather. It was very hot," he said.

The 34-year-old said his best time in the 4.2-mile race is about 13 minutes, which he set a couple of years ago. He also took time to thank the other runners of the challenging half marathon.

"Thank you for all the runners and congratulations to everyone."

Whelan, for his part, said he was simply overwhelmed by the very humid conditions of the half marathon, which started on the dot at 5:30am.

"I felt very good at 10K but at 15K I started to cramp and the humidity just took its toll and I just didn't cope. Hat's off to everyone who finished. It's just incredibly hot out there, everyone just did a beautiful job."

Other participants of the men's half marathon were Roland Villafria of the CNMI (1:30:38.53), Australia's Tony Gordon (1:35:01.34), and the CNMI's Tamio Nishikito and Chang Jang (1:41:18.12 and 1:47:58.34).

Guam's Marie Benito, meanwhile, gave the U.S. territory yet another gold medal when the former Olympian finished first in the women's half marathon with a time of 1:35:20.83.

She was followed by two CNMI entries, the ever-smiling triathlete Mieko Carey (1:39:32.28) and Mamiko Oshima (1:42:26.67). Monica Yamaguchi, also of the CNMI, came in fourth (1:52:47.80).

Like Degage and Whelan, Benito said that humidity played a factor in the race, but stopped short of making it an excuse for running poorly.

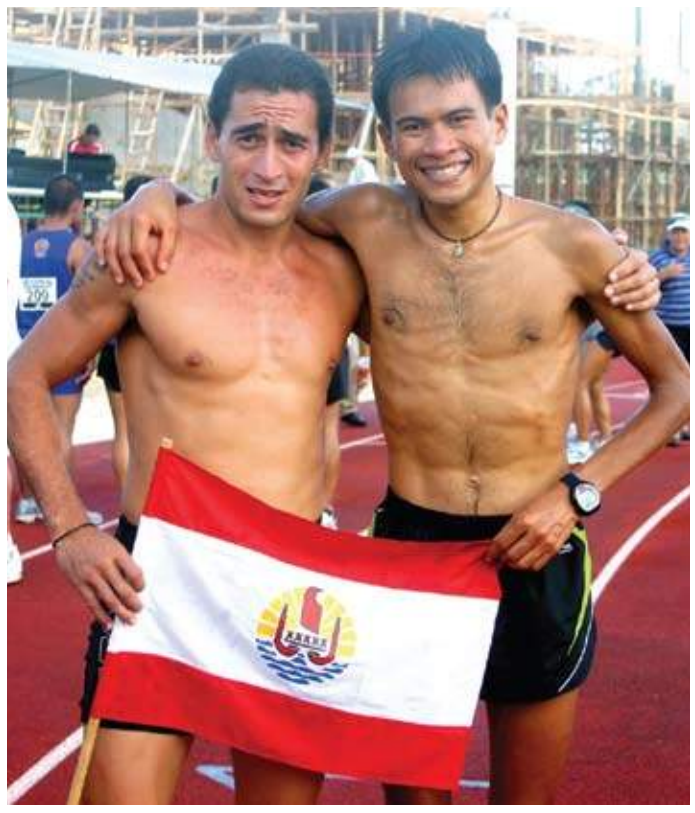
"A little humid but it's not something my competitors didn't have to contend with as well. It's such a beautiful place. I've done the half marathon here years ago so I always look forward to the flame trees and the nice flat course. It was an enjoyable run."

Carey, for her part, didn't only had to contend with the humidity as she recently arrived from the U.S. after competing in the 2008 Ironman Kansas.

"I just came back Wednesday morning from Kansas so I'm still affected by jetlag. But I'm very happy I was able to get a silver medal for the CNMI."

The fourth and final day of the 2008 Oceania Championships commenced yesterday with 24 events lined up at the Oleai Track and Field.

Last Friday, Frederic Erin of New Caledonia won the men's long jump competition by registering a 7.59m in his fourth try. Australia's Jay Stone took silver with his 7.10, while Papua New Guinea's Sandy Katusele took third with a leap of 6.98m. The CNMI's Jesus Iguel wound up in 13th place with a leap of 5.52m.



MARK RABAGO
Tutea Degage, right, and Teiva Izal of French Polynesia pose with the Tahitian flag after finishing 1-2 in the half marathon of the 2008 Oceania Championships early yesterday morning.

DAN KIMBALL
Frederic Erin of New Caledonia won the men's long jump competition by registering a 7.59m in his fourth try Friday in the 2008 Oceania Championships at the Oleai Track and Field.

CNMI Big Leaguers beat Guam, 5-2

MARK RABAGO
CNMI Big League All-Star pitcher Nicolas San Nicolas (not seen) fans Guam's Jathan Barnes in the first inning of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament opener yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Field. Catching for the CNMI is Vicente Cabrera Jr.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament got off to a good start yesterday, especially for the hosts after the CNMI beat Guam in the Big League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

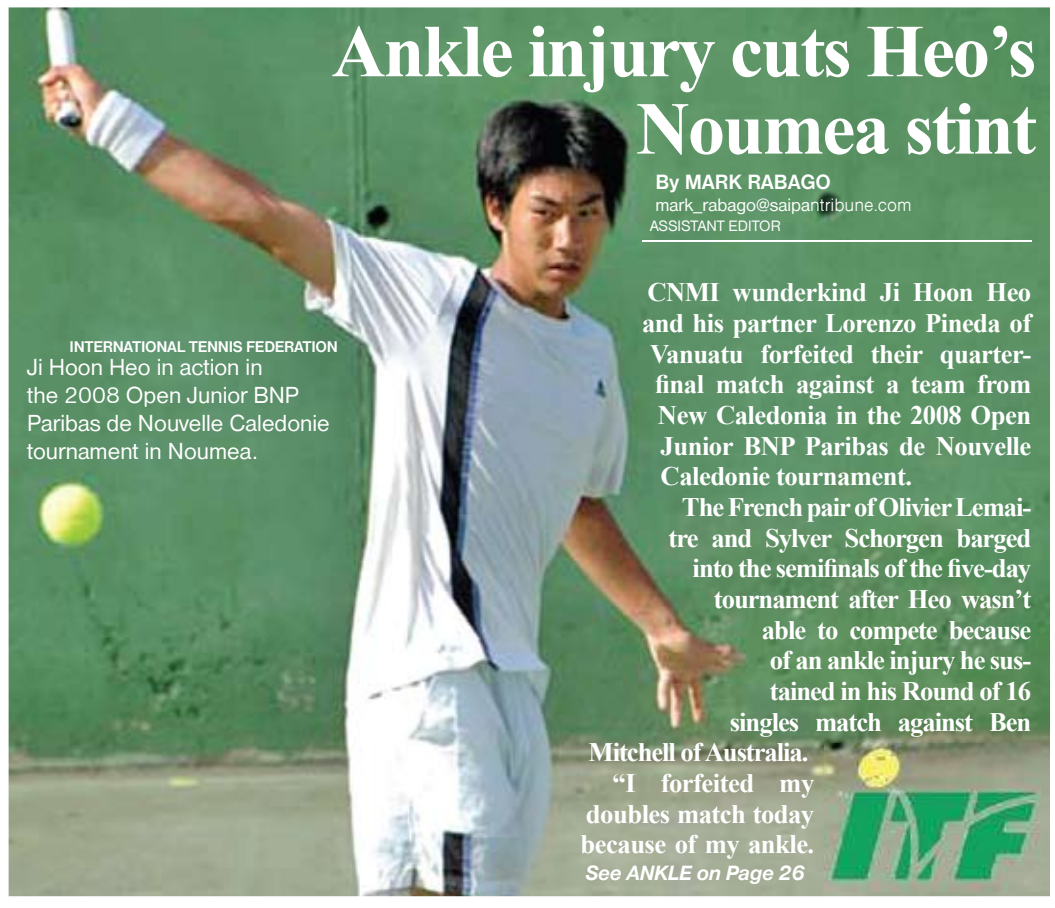
With flame-throwing pitcher Nicolas San Nicolas dealing early and often, the CNMI blanked their southern neighbors in the first six innings before Guam scored two inconsequential runs in the final inning in a 5-2 victory.

Nicolas was dominant in the first game of the 2008 Regionals, recording four strikeouts while only allowing four hits and the two aforementioned runs in the seventh. Guam pitcher Ricky Arce was tagged with the loss.

Nicolas may have had his moments from the mound, but a concern for CNMI Big League All-Star manager Robert Magofna is the way his hitters struggled against Guam's pitching.

See CNMI on Page 26

Ankle injury cuts Heo's Noumea stint



INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION
Ji Hoon Heo in action in the 2008 Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie tournament in Noumea.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CNMI wunderkind Ji Hoon Heo and his partner Lorenzo Pineda of Vanuatu forfeited their quarterfinal match against a team from New Caledonia in the 2008 Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie tournament.

The French pair of Olivier Lemaitre and Sylver Schorgen barged into the semifinals of the five-day tournament after Heo wasn't able to compete because of an ankle injury he sustained in his Round of 16 singles match against Ben Mitchell of Australia.

"I forfeited my doubles match today because of my ankle.

See ANKLE on Page 26